

**'U.N. official, doctors held in Iran'**

PARIS (R) — French humanitarian aid group Pharmaciens Sans Frontières (PSF) said on Saturday that a senior U.N. official and three PSF workers had been seized in northern Iraq and taken across the border into Iran. PSF said in a statement that exiled leaders of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) reported the four were being held by Iranian troops. They were in good health and had not been mistreated. Those held included Pierre Vinet, representative of the U.N. Refugee agency UNHCR in northern Iraq. They were seized on Friday near the Iran-Iraq border while visiting refugees displaced in the capture of the city of Sulaimaniyah. PSF said the other three were French PSF member Guillaume Wochling, an Iraqi PSF doctor it named as Ibrahim and an unnamed Iraqi driver. Sulaimaniyah is in the hands of the Iraqi government-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), which drove the rival PUK from the city on Monday.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية "الراي"

**Israel to demolish 12 Arab homes**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel has told 12 Palestinian families in a West Bank village on the outskirts of Jerusalem that their homes will be demolished because they were built without permits, a Palestinian human rights group said on Saturday. The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment accused Israel of trying to "eliminate the native Arab population in Jerusalem." It said the houses, located in Sur Baher village which straddles the occupied West Bank, were slated to be demolished in October. Israeli officials were unavailable for comment. "Over the last month, 12 families from the village of Sur Baher in southern Jerusalem received demolition orders against their houses for having no building permits, threatening to displace some 20 people," the human rights group said.

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## King sends message to Sultan Qaboos

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohamad, director of the National Security Council, Saturday left for Oman to relay a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Sultan Qaboos of Oman. Prince Talal was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Director General of the Royal Court Abdullah Sarraj and Omani Ambassador Mohammad Ben Sultan Al Bussaid.

## Ciller begins visit on Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher on Saturday said Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller is expected in Jordan on Tuesday on an official two-day visit to the Kingdom. Dr. Muasher said that Jordan welcomes this visit, "which represents enhanced relations between Jordan and Turkey and affirms the friendly ties between the two countries." He added that the visit comes in the context of Jordan's "keenness to enhance relations with Turkey due to Turkish important role in the Middle East and the potential of utilising bilateral relations to serve the region in all fields."

## Law amendments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers on Saturday reviewed three amendments to a law on public funds protection. The Cabinet also discussed a study prepared by Minister of Finance Marwan Awad on the number of government employees and structural unemployment as well as the need for rehabilitation and training programmes for civil servants. The Cabinet also reviewed a monthly report on combating corruption prepared by the anti-corruption directorate affiliated with the General Intelligence Department.

## Netanyahu reports threats against him

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday that he had received threats against him but did not elaborate. Asked about recent threats by ultra-orthodox Jews against Israel's High Court Chief Justice Aharon Barak, Mr. Netanyahu told Israeli army radio: "There are also threats against me." An article published last month in an ultra-orthodox newspaper branded Mr. Barak a "dangerous enemy" of devout Jews and said God would help religious Jews overcome him. Asked if the threats were made by members of the left-wing, Mr. Netanyahu said: "It is meaningless where they are coming from, whether it's from the left or from the right. 'Death threats or any kind of threats are illegitimate and should be condemned...They are a danger and a crime.'"

## 250 men line up to contest Kuwaiti poll

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — More than 250 men will battle for the 50-seats in Kuwait's national assembly, or parliament, in the October general elections, the interior ministry said on Saturday. Some 253 candidates had registered with the election administration by the Saturday closing date, a statement sent to the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said. Fewer people registered to stand for these elections, which will take place on Oct. 7, than in the last poll in 1992 when some 304 candidates stood, the statement said.

# Arab League condemns interference in Iraqi affairs

## Foreign ministers demand respect for Iraq's sovereignty

### Combined agency dispatches

THE ARAB LEAGUE on Saturday strongly condemned "foreign interference" in Iraq and expressed concern about the country's independence and sovereignty. "The council expresses its extreme concern because of the foreign interference that threatens the unity, security and territory of Iraq," the league's ministerial council said in a statement after meeting here. The league also underlined its "strong condemnation of the interference by some neighbouring countries in the internal affairs of an Arab state member of the Arab League Council."

States or its build-up of forces in Kuwait for a possible strike against Iraq, but the words were clearly aimed at Washington.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Said El Sahhaf said he was "completely satisfied" by the statement, adding that "it lacked nothing."

"Everyone's committed to the unity and sovereignty of Iraq. The theme of the session was the unity of all Arab ranks, rejecting the partition of Iraq," Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told reporters after the meeting.

Even Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, Iraq's staunchest foe in the region, endorsed the consensus. "We are the people most committed to the coherence of Iraq... we cannot accept the partition of Iraq," he said.

But Sheikh Sabah also defended Kuwait's right to call in U.S. forces to defend against any possible Iraqi attacks. "We hope that reason will prevail so that what happened in 1990 (the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait) doesn't happen... Isn't it my right to defend myself?" he told reporters.

In public speeches at the start of the meeting in Cairo, the foreign ministers of Tunisia and Algeria criticised the United States by implication for using force in response to an offensive by a Kurdish group backed by the Iraqi government.

The U.S. missile attacks last week on Iraq have won little support in the Arab world and there is widespread sympathy for the Baghdad government's argument that it has every right to use its forces in the autonomous Kurdish north.

"Tunisia asserts once again that the sovereignty and territorial inviolability of all states in the region must be respected, especially at a time when there are increasing threats to the unity and sovereignty of Iraq," said Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya.

"We call on all parties to restrain themselves and avoid the use of military force and any descent into the vortex of violence... which might be difficult to control," he added. Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf, whose country is taking over the Arab League chairmanship for the next six months, said Iraq was the victim of foreign military moves.

"Algeria has condemned the (U.S.) attack, the use of force and the intervention in Iraq's internal affairs," he added.

## Arafat says Israel is faking peace efforts

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat complained to an emergency Arab League meeting on Saturday that Israel was only play-acting at peace and was not serious about implementing agreements it had made with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"There is an impasse not only on the Palestinian track but the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, where nothing has been implemented concerning the agreements signed and agreed upon," Mr. Arafat told reporters at the end of the meeting. "There is an attempt only to make a political show, to give the impression that there is a tendency from the Israelis to move in the right direction, while on the ground there is nothing concrete in our hands," he added.

Mr. Arafat requested the extraordinary Arab League meeting to air his grievances against the right-wing Israeli government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which came to power after elections in May.

"This was an important opportunity to put my Arab brothers in the picture regarding the dangerous circumstances that we are going through and that directly affect the peace process," Mr. Arafat said.

"I also told them about attempts by Israel to freeze implementation of what was agreed upon and its (Israel's) making do with meetings that only have a political facade. This puts the peace process in real danger."

Mr. Arafat said his speech focused on Jerusalem, Israel's refusal to withdraw from the West Bank town of Hebron, the fate of Palestinian refugees, safe passage ways between the self-rule areas and Palestinian prisoners. These are some of the stickiest issues

on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating table.

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said he shared Mr. Arafat's pessimism because the "prospects for the peace process are very, very negative."

"We are supporters of the peace process. But it must be a just and comprehensive peace and not Israeli hegemony and provocation. We completely reject such things," he said.

"We are talking about dangerous issues. The current Israeli government is violating all the agreements reached by the previous government. Netanyahu's government will bear the results of such a position. We are not fooled by talk but look out for action," Mr. Abdul Meguid told a news conference with Mr. Arafat.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez told

## U.N. says 30,000 Kurdish refugees in Iran

### Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED NATIONS Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Saturday an inspection team had so far found about 30,000 Kurdish refugees from recent fighting in Iraq in camps on the Iranian side of the border.

Spokeswoman Judith Melby said in Geneva the team, sent to assess the needs of the refugees under an emergency UNHCR operation, had been impressed with arrangements made by the Iranian Red Crescent Society in setting up the camps.

Citing the UNHCR representative in Tehran, Roger Vivarie, she said the group had visited four of the five camps where the Iranian authorities say there are a total of around 40,000 people from northern and western areas of Iraq.

"We think that total is about right," said Ms. Melby.

The UNHCR has assigned \$3.6 million from its emergency fund to provide shelter, food and medicines for the refugees.

In camps in three Iranian areas bordering on northern Iraq, some refugees had brought with them some of their own supplies and cooking equipment and appeared to be in relatively good health, the team reported.

Iraqi Kurds in these areas — Sardasht, Cyramband and Baghmah — fled into Iran after a one of the two major Kurdish factions took control of most of northern Iraq over the past two weeks with backing from the Baghdad government.

But Mr. Vivarie reported that Kurds in a camp in Iran's Kermanshah province which borders an area of Iraq always under government control appeared in much worse physical shape. Ms. Melby quoted him as saying they were showing signs of the effects of the five-year international economic sanctions imposed on Iraq in the wake of its brief seizure of Kuwait in 1990. Many of them were now returning to Iraq.

It was not immediately clear why Kurds from this area had crossed into Iran.

But some may have feared bombing by the United States in retaliation for President Saddam Hussein's activities in the Kurdish "safe haven" areas in the north, the spokeswoman said.

On Friday, UNHCR spokesman Rupert Colville said most of the Kurds who had managed to cross into Iran — negotiating Iraqi minefields on the way — were sleeping in the open, due to a serious shortage of tents.

## Baghdad says it wants to end crisis, but U.S. seeks consensus for military strike

### Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID on Saturday it hoped its decision to suspend missile attacks on U.S. and allied warplanes enforcing "no-fly" zones would help defuse the military standoff with Washington.

At the same time Iraqi President Saddam Hussein also ordered the strengthening of the country's air defences despite the withdrawal of his threat to attack allied warplanes patrolling "no-fly zones" in the north and south of Iraq.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said President Saddam had met with air defence commanders and ordered them to beef up air defences in anticipation of a U.S. military strike.

The United States continued its military buildup in the region by ordering 5,000 troops to Kuwait. Eight Stealth bombers flew into Kuwait at dusk on Friday.

President Bill Clinton sent Defence Secretary William Perry to the Middle East to discuss potential military moves. Mr. Perry is expected to visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Bahrain.

Earlier it was announced that 5,000 soldiers based at Fort Hood, Texas, would leave this weekend for Kuwait. They join 1,200 other U.S. soldiers there since August.

The eight F-117A Stealth fighters can evade radar and used laser-guided bombs to hit targets in Baghdad in the 1991 Gulf war when a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The aircraft carrier Enterprise, with 75 warplanes, was steaming from the Adriatic Sea, expected to reach the Gulf on Sunday to join the carrier Carl Vinson. The two ships have F-14 fighters adapted to carry accurate laser-guided bombs.

already moved long-range B-52 bombers to a British base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, within striking distance of Iraq.

The bombers were used to launch cruise missile strikes against Iraq last week in reprisal for President Saddam Hussein's military incursion into northern Iraq on Aug. 31 in an alliance with one Kurdish faction against another.

The land, air and sea military buildup reflects Washington's doubts about Iraq's latest pronouncements aimed at defusing two weeks of tension with the United States.

A spokesman for Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council said on Friday evening that attacks on U.S. and allied warplanes patrolling no-fly zones would stop as of midnight local time (2000 GMT).

The United States had

(Continued on page 7)

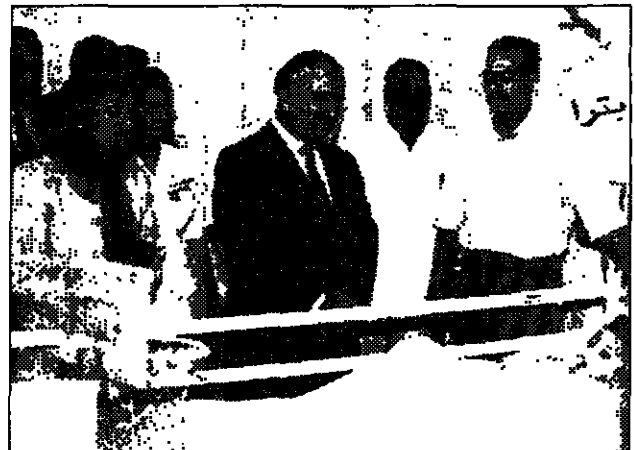
## Regent: Genuine solidarity needed to address humanitarian problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday called for genuine solidarity among human beings to collectively address humanitarian issues.

"I would like to emphasise that what is needed is not a mere statement about the state of affairs of human issues. Nor do we need a definition of human solidarity. We need to show commitment to human duties and determination to deal with the issues which have plagued this part of the world," said the Regent at the closing session of the 26th meeting by the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies of the Arab World.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, who was present at the meeting, delivered an address in which she outlined Jordan's achievements in humanitarian fields at the regional and international levels.

Dr. Mohammad Hadid,



Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath on Saturday visit the Al Hilal Hospital after opening an annex to the facility (Petra photo)

President of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), lauded the royal family's contributions towards humanitarian and charitable activities.

Dr. Hadid reviewed the achievements of the JNRCS. Later, the Crown Prince presented Princess Sarvath with the JNRCS's Golden Medal in recognition of her

work in humanitarian fields. His Majesty King Hussein has bestowed on Dr. Hadid the Al Kawkab Medal of the Second Order and on Dr. Fahd Ajeh, the JNRCS secretary general, Al Kawkab Medal of the Third Order.

Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath later inaugurated an annex to the Al Hilal Hospital.

## Government said studying option of early elections

By Yasser Abu Hileleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is considering holding early parliamentary elections, a government source told the Jordan Times Saturday. The opposition Islamist movement reacted favourably to the idea.

"The government is considering holding early elections but the idea has not matured yet," said the source who, preferred anonymity. The term of the present Parliament ends in October 1997 and elections are due in November.

Ishaq Al Farhan, secretary-general of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party which leads the opposition in Parliament, said: "Talk about early elections is premature since the government has not come up with a clear idea about it yet."

eliminate the negative effects of the one-person, one-vote law. The important thing is how the elections will be held and whether they will be fair and on the basis of what law," said Dr. Farhan.

On prospects for the IAF's participation in early elections, he said: "The IAF, which took part in previous elections, supports the democratic option although it continues to oppose the one-person, one-vote election system."

The Constitution does not provide for early elections, but His Majesty the King has the power to dissolve Parliament and in this case elections should be held within four months of the dissolution of the legislature.

Another IAF member, Abdullah Akaleh, a deputy, said: "I will be committed to any decision taken by the IAF as a party, but personally I welcome this proposal."

"I myself had proposed the holding of early elections but we must first have a new election law that would replace the one-person, one-vote law," Dr. Akaleh said.

"However, if there is no hope of changing the present election law, I support early elections. But if there is a chance for changing the present law for the better then I do not mind delaying the elections," he added.

The election law in force at the moment divides the country into 20 electoral districts with varying number of voters and parliamentary seats. It grants each voter the right to vote only for one candidate in his or her constituency. When this provision was enacted in 1993 it was opposed by political parties and criticised by many politicians and political activists.

The IAF's priority is an election law that would

(Continued on page 7)

## Bosnians start voting in landmark elections

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnians began voting Saturday in an election that will help determine the fate of their ravished land: reconciliation or dismemberment as the final act of a disastrous war.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT) across the country that was divided in two — a Muslim-Croat half and a Serb half — by last year's Dayton peace agreement to end 3 1/2 years of war.

The elections were intended to bind the two halves together with a weak central government, and ensure that the Serbs were not able to achieve their war aim of secession.

Heavy rain and clouds appeared to be lifting in the early morning hours across Bosnia. No trouble was reported initially.

A North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)-demolition team blew up a landmine found on a main road near the central Bosnian town of Bugojno.

The road was not one of the 19 high-security routes recommended to voters crossing the inter-entity boundary lines to cast their ballots.

Elsewhere, Bosnian Serb police stopped a minibus carrying eight Muslim voters at Krupa, south of the Serb stronghold of Banja Luka, NATO spokesman Col. Brook said.

"The Muslim voters were invited by police to vote in the local polling station at Krupa. They were told polling stations in Banja Luka were very busy," Col. Brook said.

Travnik in the Muslim-Croat federation, Bosnia's other entity.

Both NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) and the organisers of the landmark vote, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), stated the vote had gone smoothly with cooperation from authorities and police from both entities.

Seventy-seven buses carrying voters had crossed from the federation into the Republika Srpska by 5:00 p.m. (1500 GMT), the multinational force said.

Most were believed to be carrying Serb refugees from other countries.

The organisers said it appeared that a very low number of Muslims had voted in the Serb entity. U.N. spokesman Mans

Nyberg said he was "surprised and disappointed by the fact that a big number of refugees and displaced persons have not used the opportunity to vote in their places of origin."

Bosnian Serbs turned out in force to vote as wanted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, the ousted Serb "president," kept a low profile.

More than half the registered voters in pale had cast their ballots by early afternoon without any major incident.

However, Judge Svetislav Stanoevic, electoral commission chairman for the Serb-run Republika Srpska, said that because of "grave errors," thousands of people not registered on electoral lists risked being deprived of the right to vote.



## Pope Shenouda urges united Arab position to regain Jerusalem

CAIRO (Agencies) — The head of the Coptic Christian Church has called on Arab countries to forge a united position on Jerusalem, saying he feared that the Holy City had already fallen "part and parcel" to Israeli interests.

"I fear that by delaying negotiations on Jerusalem to a final phase, Israel will be able to eliminate all Arab presence (in Jerusalem)," Pope Shenouda III said in an interview published by the Arab daily Al Hayat on Saturday.

Pope Shenouda said Israel could then carry out a referendum involving a majority of Jews and a tiny minority of Arabs "whose results will be in Israel's interest."

"Every day that goes by is not in the interest of the Arabs. And I fear that Jerusalem has been confiscated part and parcel" by Israel, he said.

His remarks were published as Arab League foreign ministers met here to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process, including the "Judaisation" of Jerusalem and plans by Israel to expand settlements in Palestinian territories.

Pope Shenouda did not refer to the meeting but called for a "strong Arab position" to force Israel to retract its policies.

"Israel depends on Arab weakness and (Israeli Prime Minister) Netanyahu will only retract his policies if he were to be confronted by a strong Arab position," Pope Shenouda said.

He praised the resolutions taken at an Arab summit in Cairo in June threatening

to freeze normalisation of ties with the Jewish state unless it made progress in the peace process.

Pope Shenouda also hailed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who said he would scrap a regional economic conference scheduled for Cairo in November unless Israel gave up its hardline positions. "There is no doubt that Israel has economic ambitions in the Middle East and would like to see the conference held on time."

Therefore if Netanyahu sees that the Arabs are not afraid he will have to revise his strategy," he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said on Friday that Arab leaders were "very pessimistic" about the future of the Middle East peace process and could reconsider the policy of normalising ties with Israel.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said "recommendations" to freeze the normalisation process with Israel may be adopted at the Arab League conference.

Pope Shenouda is a staunch critic of Israel and has banned Copts from going there since 1970 when Israel took over the Coptic monastery of Deir Al Sultan in Jerusalem and handed it over to Ethiopian monks.

Last year Pope Shenouda refused to give communion to thousands of Copts who defied his ban on visiting Jerusalem last Easter despite a 17-year-old peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.



LIFE AS USUAL IN BAGHDAD: Iraqi women stand in a long queue waiting to get subsidised powdered milk under the country's food ration system in Baghdad. A propaganda poster in the background shows President Saddam Hussein kissing boy in military dress (Reuters photo)

## Tomb of pharaoh found near Valley of Kings

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian authorities have found the tomb of a pharaoh near the Valley of the Kings in the ancient capital Luxor, the government newspaper Al-Ahram said.

The pharaoh has not yet been identified but he belonged to the 19th dynasty, which ruled Egypt between 1320 and 1200 BC — the "silver age" of the pharaonic empire.

The tomb contains a sarcophagus and a mummy, probably of the pharaoh himself, the Saturday edition of the newspaper reported.

It did not say if the tomb, like those of most pharaohs, was robbed in ancient times but the list of contents suggested most of the burial goods had disappeared.

A man who works for the state antiquities department

discovered the tomb 10 years ago but instead of reporting it to the authorities, he built a house over the entrance in the hope of finding treasures inside, it said.

The underground tomb contains a large hall with 10 columns, six of them marble, statues of the pharaoh and his wife and a burial chamber with the large red granite sarcophagus and the complete mummy nearby, swaddled in its linen wrappings.

The sarcophagus, two metres long and one metre tall, has a complete lid and is decorated with hieroglyphic writing and drawings in colour, it added.

It said the burial chamber lay at the end of a spiral corridor 100 metres long, leading off the pillared hall.

The house is in the village of Gurna, about two kilometres from the Valley of the Kings, the graveyard of most pharaohs throughout the second half of the 2nd millennium BC. The valley contains the famous tomb of Tutankhamun, which British Egyptologist Howard Carter found intact in 1922.

The Egyptian authorities have tried for years to move people away from the Gurna area because of the tombs but they have met stiff resistance from families which have profited from the antiquities business for generations.

Al-Ahram said the man who built the house had been planning to sell the contents of the tomb abroad through a brother who lives in Europe. He had been

excavating the site with the help of his father and his brother, both of whom work or have worked for the antiquities department.

The case is bound to put the spotlight back on the security of Egyptian antiquities after this week's attempt to steal some of Tutankhamun's treasures from the Egyptian museum in Cairo.

A young unemployed Egyptian man spent Wednesday night inside the museum and managed to remove 24 objects from the showcases. He was caught as he tried to leave the museum in the morning.

On Thursday Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri appointed a new secretary general for the Supreme Council for antiquities.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ADC calls for relief for Iraqi people

WASHINGTON (Special) — In a letter to President Bill Clinton, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has expressed serious concern about the Iraqi people being denied the partial humanitarian relief promised by the United Nations' recent oil-for-food arrangement. "Notwithstanding the legalistic arguments, we believe that further deterioration of conditions in Iraq and what it leads to in terms of suffering to the Iraqi people constitute a most destabilising factor in the region," ADC President Hala Maksoud said. ADC voiced its conviction that the lifting of the sanctions, "while long overdue, will vitalise authentic democratic and connective forces which can restore to Iraq its potential for development and its ability to contribute to stability, justice and peace for its people" — both Arab and Kurd. "We urge the U.S. administration to pilot in the United Nations the lifting of the sanctions as this will ensure the ending of the suffering long endured by the Iraqi people for policies practised by a repressive and adventurous regime," Ms. Maksoud wrote.

### Iran stops boy flying home to Britain

LONDON (AFP) — Iranian authorities stopped a 17-year-old schoolboy with joint nationality as he tried to board a flight home to Britain saying he had to carry out military service in Iran, his family said Saturday. Reza Afshar, was born in Britain to Iranian parents. He travelled back to Iran on his Iranian passport and therefore could be called to serve in the army. He was stopped on Aug. 29 as he tried to fly home with his mother and sister, and now risks spending two years in the army, his family said at their home in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, west of London. His mother said Reza was very "worried" and "depressed" about the future. She had thought he could not be called for national service until he was 18, but Iranian officials said the laws had recently been changed. A Foreign Office spokesman said there was little they could do since he had been travelling on his Iranian passport and was therefore treated as a citizen of Iran.

### Six killed in militant attacks in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Militants shot dead six people and wounded a security guard in two separate attacks, including one on Muslim worshippers, in the southern province of Assiut, police said on Saturday. In the first of Friday's attacks, gunmen opened fire on civilians standing outside a house in the village of Nazla. Al Mustagida in Assiut, 386 kilometres south of Cairo, police said. Mohammad Hashem Enad and Ahmad Mekki Hussein were killed and a security guard, Mohammad Hussein Qassem, was wounded in the attack, police said. The militants accuse security guards of acting as informants. In the other attack, gunmen opened fire on Muslims performing evening prayers in the village of Tell Al Zayed, killing Ali Ahmad Yunis, Fayez Enad Abdul Haq, Khayri Abdul Hamid Atta and Issam Abu Deif Mohammad, police said. A total of 1,069 people have been killed in Egypt since 1992 in a violent anti-government campaign launched by militants.

## UNICEF reunites 160 Sudan boys with their families

NAIROBI (AFP) — More than 160 boys from war-ravaged southern Sudan were this week reunited with their families after being separated for more than three years, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Saturday.

The 168 children, aged between 10 and 18, have been living in camps for unaccompanied minors in New Cush, near Sudan's border with Kenya, where they arrived in June 1995, after an arduous two-year journey by foot to Uganda and back fleeing civil war in southern Sudan.

Some left their homes to search for education opportunities, according to a UNICEF statement.

The reunification was coordinated by UNICEF, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association and Radda Barmen, the Swedish branch of

Save the Children.

The boys, all from the Dinka ethnic group, were airlifted by UNICEF-hired buffalo cargo aircraft from Kenya's northern town of Lokichoggio to their home areas in Akot, Adior, Thiet and Agangrial this week.

UNICEF is providing basic education materials and teacher training for more than 1,200 operating in southern Sudan in an effort to ensure that the children do not leave their families again. The agency is continuing family tracing activities for an estimated 3,500 unaccompanied children living in camps in southern Sudan. More than 1,200 children have been reunited with their families since 1992.

Southern Sudan has been ravaged by 13 years of civil war pitting rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and other groups against Sudanese

## Qadhafi using 'purification' to stamp his authority

TRIPOLI (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has launched an anti-corruption campaign he says will keep the poor from burning down the property of the rich. Diplomats and his opponents say it is his latest ploy at power politics.

The Libyan leader announced in June that army officers would spearhead a war on corruption and smuggling. "Purification" committees have targeted goldsmiths, money exchange bureaus and export and import shops.

He vowed at the beginning of September to launch hundreds more committees of army and police officers and university students to "clean up" Libya.

An important trade and

foreign currency black market has developed in Libya as a result of U.N. sanctions imposed in 1992 for its failure to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Scotland.

The government decided after the sanctions not to finance imports other than essential foodstuffs and equipment and not to allow citizens foreign currency for travel abroad.

Since the start of the "purification" sweep, security forces have closed down dozens of shops and arrested scores of traders, shop owners and a senior government official.

In the latest of his renowned impromptu speeches to the Libyan

masses on Sept. 2, Colonel Qadhafi painted a picture of Robin Hood-style "purification committees" which would take from the super rich to give to the indigent.

"The purification committees will tell whoever has three houses that he should only have one and ask him from where he got the other two and then give them to those who don't own houses," he said.

"Whoever has 10 cars outside his house will take two or three cars and the rest will be distributed to families who don't have cars... If it weren't for the purification law and committees, the poor — particularly if I incited them — would burn down all the palaces, shops, farms and large cars in one night," he added.

The anti-corruption drive has been extended into Libya's oil sector, which generates around \$8 billion a year for the country. The Libyan news agency JANA has said the sweep could affect oil exports.

Not everyone is convinced of Col. Qadhafi's good intentions. A member of the Libyan opposition in exile in Egypt told Reuters the purification law and committees, which Col. Qadhafi has paraded as creations of the "masses," are his way of removing cohorts who have become too powerful.

"These committees are a tool he is using to change his men and to be in control. In his speech he attacked the rich and threatened to set the poor against them. Who created the rich and the poor in Libya? How can there be poor in Libya when the country makes \$8 billion a year from oil?" he said.

"He (Qadhafi) is the one who creates the poor and the rich. He always gives the message that I create you and I can destroy you. It's a silly game," he added.

Col. Qadhafi came to power 27 years ago as a young army officer who headed a coup that toppled King Mohammed Idris to establish a quasi-socialist state where resources are owned by the people, who rule themselves through a system of nationwide committees.

A diplomat in Tripoli said

Col. Qadhafi could be trying to assert his control over the relatively influential mercantile class.

"We can't really figure out what the economic logic behind all of this is. It doesn't make sense, it's unfathomable. It seems to be done for political reasons as much as anything else," the diplomat told Reuters.

"It's an indication of heavy-handedness from the regime wanting to stamp its authority on Tripoli. The Tripoli merchant classes have long been sort of outside Qadhafi's power base — a part of Libyan society that he has to keep sweet but at the same time he has to show them who's boss," he added.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
15:05.....Fleets American Tails  
15:20.....Just The Job  
15:45.....Mac and Matley  
16:15.....Italian Soccer  
17:00.....News Flash  
17:02.....Science Cartoon  
17:15.....La Vie Devant Moi  
17:30.....Game Show — Pyramid  
18:00.....Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part One  
19:00.....Le Journal  
19:15.....Magazine — Sports Et Musique  
19:30.....News Headlines  
19:35.....Cinema, Cinema, Cinema  
20:00.....American Chart Show  
20:45.....The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air  
21:10.....Black's Magic  
22:00.....News in English  
22:25.....Mini-Series — Jamaica Inn  
23:30.....Short Story, Cinema  
23:45.....Nelson's Column

## PRAYER TIMES

04:56.....Fajr  
06:15.....Sunrise/Duha  
12:31.....Dhuhr  
16:02.....Asr  
18:48.....Maghrib  
20:06.....Isha

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 63/34  
Amman 20/35  
Aqaba 25/39  
Deserts 16/38  
Jordan Valley 24/39  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 35, Aqaba 37 Humidity  
readings: Amman 21 per cent.  
Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL  
TELEPHONE  
NUMBERS  
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh .....819220  
Dr. Rami Sukkar .....856457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikhab .....890104  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644445  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najih pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh .....250880  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Rahab Al Bourini .....990312  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

EMERGENCIES  
Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....611111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

Civil Defence Emergency .....630341  
Agency 199 .....777101/3  
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Dept. 630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water & Sewerage Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints 771111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
J. Electricity Authority .....636381  
RJ Flight Information .....08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS  
AMMAN:  
Husseini Medical Centre .....813813/32  
Khalifeh Maternity .....64281/6  
Akileh Maternity .....64244/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhus, J. Amman .....836140  
Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University .....Hospital  
Al-Muasher Hospital .....667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali .....666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3  
Al-Bashir .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital .....602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:  
Govt. Hospital .....(09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital .....(09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital .....(02)272775  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital .....(02)347100

AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital .....(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the Queen Alia  
International Airport Tel.  
(08)53200-5, where it should  
always be verified. Information on  
other flights can be supplied on  
phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
09:15.....Dhahran (add) (RJ)  
09:30.....Jeddah (RJ)  
09:30.....Lamaca (RJ)  
09:55.....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
10:05.....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:10.....Beirut (RJ)  
10:20.....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
10:50.....New York (RJ)  
16:05.....Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)  
18:00.....Paris (RJ)  
18:00.....Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)  
18:50.....London (RJ)  
19:15.....Athens (RJ)  
19:25.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)  
19:30.....Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
19:45.....Frankfurt (RJ)  
20:25.....Rome (RJ)  
20:30.....Tunis (RJ)  
20:40.....Vienna (RJ)  
01:10.....Cairo (RJ)  
Other Flights  
06:30.....Tel Aviv (LY)  
12:30.....Doha (QF)  
13:40.....Bahrain (GF)  
14:30.....Moscow (SU)  
16:30.....Dubai (EK)  
20:35.....Cairo (MS)  
21:10.....Beirut (ME)  
22:15.....London, Beirut (BA)  
23:20.....Istanbul (TK)  
23:30.....Athens (OA)  
01:20.....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)  
02:30.....Belgrade (GU)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
09:50.....Aqaba (RW)  
19:45.....Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:35.....Beirut (RJ)  
09:30.....Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:00.....Vienna (RJ)  
12:00.....Tunis (RJ)  
12:15.....Rome (RJ)  
12:15.....Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)  
12:30.....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
13:20.....Athens (RJ)  
13:25.....London (RJ)  
21:10.....Cairo (RJ)  
21:20.....New Delhi (RJ)  
21:20.....Jeddah (RJ)  
22:15.....Doha, Singapore (RJ)  
22:20.....Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
22:25.....Damascus (RJ)  
22:50.....Bangkok (RJ)  
23:00.....Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (add) (RJ)  
23:45.....Sanaa (RJ)  
Other Flights  
06:40.....London (KJ)  
07:25.....Tel Aviv (LY)  
08:45.....Beirut (ME)  
09:15.....London (BA)  
13:30.....Istanbul, Athens (QF)  
14:30.....Doha (GF)  
16:05.....Moscow (SU)  
17:30.....Dubai (EK)  
21:25.....Cairo (MS)  
00:20.....Riyadh (add) (SV)  
02:30.....Amsterdam (KL)  
03:30.....Belgrade (GU)  
04:00.....Athens (OA)  
06:00.....Istanbul (TK)

07:45.....Beirut, London (BA)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
10:00 Amman (arriving at Marka Airport from QAIA (RW)  
20:30.....Aqaba (RW)

## HAZAR RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman .....800 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus .....500 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus .....7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman .....500 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....600/600  
Banana (mulhammar) .....520/520  
Banana (imported) .....850/600  
Carrot .....160/90  
Cauliflower .....400/250  
Cucumber (large) .....240/140  
Cucumber (small) .....420/250  
Eggplant .....220/150  
Fig .....340/240  
Garlic .....650/400  
Grapes .....400/250  
Lemon .....520/400  
Marrow (large) .....250/150  
Marrow (small) .....150/30  
Mulukhiyah .....110/70  
Onion (dry) .....150/90  
Okra .....580/500  
Pea .....850/600  
Peach .....340/200  
Pepper (hot) .....400/200  
Pepper (sweet) .....460/200  
Potato .....350/200  
String Bean .....850/600  
Sweet melon .....350/200  
Tomato .....130/60

## Home News

## Ministry considers direct cash payments in place of subsidies for foodstuffs

By Isam Qadamani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government is seriously considering substituting its current subsidies of sugar, rice and powdered milk with a direct cash subsidy and is preparing a feasibility study in this respect, Minister of Supply Munir Sobar announced Saturday.

During a tour of markets in the Sweileh district of Amman where, accompanied by ministry inspection teams, he visited a number of markets, the minister said that no decision will be taken until all considerations have been taken into account such that the move will not negatively impact the public.

The Ministry of Supply currently subsidises sugar, rice, and powdered milk for those citizens who earn less than JD500 a month. They and their beneficiaries receive quarterly food coupons to allow them to buy these commodities at a discount.

According to Mr. Sobar the ministry has calculated that each eligible citizen currently receives JD9.65 on a quarterly basis in the form of direct subsidies for sugar, rice and powdered milk.

Mr. Sobar maintained that the ministry will con-



Minister of Supply Munir Sobar inspects cost and quality of various food items in the Sweileh district of Amman (Photo by Hatem Ali)

tinue its distribution of food coupons to those eligible persons for the coming three months beginning Oct. 1, 1996.

Ministry sources say that the projected cash subsidy might be effected at the end of the year. During his inspection in Sweileh, the minister met merchants, green grocers, and private citizens to exchange opinions about the current market situation.

He told the Jordan Times that the number of people

who have registered complaints about alleged violations of price controls was increasing daily and that this manifests itself through public perception of the government's ability to stem acts of profiteering or manipulation.

"We are seeking to pass a law on the prevention of monopolies which would give the proper authorities further power to prevent such merchant monopolies and redress the situation," added the minister.

"In terms of the inspection tours, the ministry's aim is not to fine transgressors who may manipulate either cost or quality, but rather to create a situation whereby merchants and customers cooperate constructively to ensure a fair market performance," he said.

The minister maintained that it is the client's responsibility to report merchant violations to the ministry to ensure rectification.

## Arab women concerns to be addressed in conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of Social Affairs from various Arab countries will meet here Sept. 28 to discuss and endorse a report regarding the status of women as prepared by Arab specialists in women's affairs.

The ministers will also discuss national plans to advance women's standing and emphasise their contribution to overall development processes, according to Minister of Social Development Hammad Abu Jamous.

The experts, who will meet on Sept. 25 in three days of separate meetings, will discuss the final draft of the aforementioned document, national plans for

Arab women and such issues as poverty reduction and increased numbers of women in high-level participatory capacities.

Mr. Abu Jamous said that so far 13 Arab countries have expressed their willingness to attend these encounters and stated his hope that more countries participate in this meeting which will be attended by the Arab League Secretary-General for Social and Cultural Affairs. Also taking part in the meeting will be representatives from disparate international organisations, including the Arab Labour Organisation, the Arab Family Organisation, the Arab Council for Childhood and Development, the

Arab Women's Centre for Training and Research, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The conference is organised by the Ministry of Social Development in coordination with the National Jordanian Committee on Women's Affairs, and the Arab League General Secretariat.

## Children's Songs Festival to be held Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture has announced the Third Jordanian Festival of Children's Songs to be held on Tuesday at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Participating in the event, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, will be musicians and researchers from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Algeria, Palestine, Sudan, Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, said Ministry Secretary General Qasem Abu Ain.

In a press conference convened Saturday, Dr. Abu Ain said the four-day festival aims at showcasing children's culture as well as aiding participants from the various Arab states to observe first-hand experiments promoting children's activities in the Arab World.

They will also encourage writers and musicians to compose children's songs, he said.

Jordan will present seven children's songs selected from 51 entries submitted to a committee of judges.

The best local Jordanian song will receive JD500, said Dr. Abu Ain.

The ministry has also allocated awards for the best three songs from abroad: the first will receive \$3000, the second \$2000 and the third \$1000.

The ministry will honour local institutions and private citizens who have worked to promote children's songs, including former Ministry Secretary General Naji Amareh, poet Nayef Abu Obeid, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who will be honoured for its care and services to children.

According to senior ministry official, Ms. Waffa Qousus, who is also the festival director, the Ministry of Culture will organise a special seminar auxiliary to the festival to allow participants to talk about their own experiments in composing children's songs.

## Open canals report 40% water loss

AMMAN (Petra) — Open canals have been causing a loss of nearly 40 per cent of the total water pumped from the King Abdullah Canal, said Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh.

The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has embarked on a project to transform an open canal water irrigation system to a closed pipes network to minimise water loss from evaporation and leakage which presently escape through cracks in the cement canals, according to an announcement by Dr. Mahasneh.

"With the new network, the JVA hopes to increase the amounts of pumped water reaching valley farmlands from 60 per cent to more than 90," He added noting that the present open canals system was built 32 years back and therefore its efficiency is gradually decreasing.

The King Abdullah Canal is undergoing repair, maintenance and dredging at the cost of JD 9.653 million which is partially being covered by a loan from the European Investment Bank with the remainder procured from the Jordanian treasury, according to Dr.

Mahasneh who also said that the project is slated to increase the present efficiency of this canal by 10 per cent.

The King Abdullah Canal Maintenance Project will take nearly two years to complete and claims vital importance as the water which will be supplied from Lake Tiberias to Jordan, in accordance with the 1994 Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty, will arrive through the King Abdullah Canal, according to Dr. Mahasneh.

The treaty provides for 30 million cubic metres of water annually. Dr. Mahasneh added that Jordan plans to build two dams; the first at the meeting point between the Yarmouk River and the Jordan River and another in the Al Yabis area where a reservoir will collect flood water.

He said that a feasibility study on these dams will begin early next year and has a projected completion date of 16 months hence, with financing partially provided through loans from the European Union.



## ARAB BANK

## Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1996 and 1995

Assets	1996	1995
JOD ('000)	JOD ('000)	
Cash and due from banks	4,101,413	3,666,962
Government and trading securities	849,318	749,899
Loans and advances, net	3,893,416	3,375,875
Long-term investments	506,347	+00,040
Fixed assets, net	54,246	50,641
Other assets	210,729	138,035
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>9,615,469</b>	<b>8,381,452</b>

Customers' liability on guarantees, letters of credit and acceptances	3,862,766	3,199,095
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,478,235</b>	<b>11,580,547</b>

Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	1996	1995
JOD ('000)	JOD ('000)	
Customer deposits	6,510,635	5,715,201
Bank deposits	2,161,768	1,713,956
Other liabilities	391,066	465,295
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>9,063,469</b>	<b>7,894,452</b>
Capital	44,000	44,000
Statutory reserve	44,000	44,000
Voluntary reserve	116,000	94,000
General reserve	348,000	305,000
<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>552,000</b>	<b>487,000</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>9,615,469</b>	<b>8,381,452</b>
Guarantees, letters of credit and acceptances	3,862,766	3,199,095
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,478,235</b>	<b>11,580,547</b>

Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1996 and 30 June 1995 was included in "Other Liabilities"

JOD 1 = USD 1.41 on 30/06/1996  
JOD 1 = USD 1.44 on 30/06/1995

ARAB BANK, GENERAL MANAGEMENT, SHMEISANI, AMMAN,  
P.O. BOX 950544-5. TELEPHONE : 607115, 607231, TELEX : 23091  
ARABNK JO, FAX : (962) (6) 606793

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

## LECTURE

\*"Qasr Amra" by HRH Princess Wijdan Ali at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh at 7:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

\*"Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

\*Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

\*Wrought-iron exhibition by Salim Bandak at Kan Zaman (Tel. 736449), until Sept. 15  
\* Works by Batoul Al Fakiki at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Sept. 17.





# ARAB BANK GROUP

## Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1996 and 1995

Assets	1996	1995	Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	1996	1995
	US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)		US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)
Cash and due from banks	5,640,200	5,816,183	Customer deposits	9,716,922	8,788,967
Government and trading securities	1,326,583	1,299,084	Bank deposits	3,014,576	3,015,688
Loans and advances, net	6,309,604	5,620,080	Other liabilities	868,951	961,939
Long-term investments	1,118,545	881,464	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>13,600,449</b>	<b>12,766,594</b>
Fixed assets, net	96,129	92,988	Capital	84,897	139,246
Other assets	350,479	246,560	Statutory reserve	78,181	112,471
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>14,841,540</b>	<b>13,956,359</b>	Voluntary reserve	179,230	175,984
Customers' liability on guarantees, letters of credit and other contingencies	8,818,799	7,092,666	General reserve	641,782	732,537
			Reserves with associated companies	273,823	251,746
			Retained earnings	2,031	2,257
			<b>Total</b>	<b>1,259,944</b>	<b>1,414,241</b>
			Translation adjustments	(18,853)	(224,476)
			<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>1,241,091</b>	<b>1,189,765</b>
			<b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>	<b>14,841,540</b>	<b>13,956,359</b>
			Guarantees, letters of credit and other contingencies	8,818,799	7,092,666
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,660,339</b>	<b>21,049,025</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>23,660,339</b>	<b>21,049,025</b>

Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1996 and 30 June 1995 was included in "Other liabilities"

### Main branches in the Arab countries

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Shmeisani, Amman	Jordan (78)	950546	607231	670564
King Faisal St. Amman		68	638161	637082
Ramallah	West Bank (9)	1487	9954822	9954824
Gaza	Gaza Strip (2)	91	866288	820704
Manama O.B.U.	Bahrain (1)	813	212255	224475
Manama	Bahrain (3)	395	229988	210443
Cairo	Egypt (5)	2006	5746218	5746165
Beirut	Lebanon (11)	11-1015	643411	868130
Doha	Qatar (2)	172	437979	410774
Abu Dhabi	U.A.E. (8)	875	334111	336433
Dubai		11364	228845	285974
Sana'a	Yemen (4)	475	276584	276583

### Main branches in Europe, Asia and U.S.A.

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Nicosia	Cyprus (5)	5650	457111	367741
Paris	France (2)	319	45616000	42890978
Athens	Greece (1)	30357	3255401	3255519
Rome	Italy (1)	745	69940479	6795601
Madrid	Spain (3)		3084290	3086482
London	U.K. (3)	138	3158500	6007620
Singapore	Singapore (1)		5330055	5322150
Seoul	S. Korea (1)	1331	3179000	7570124
New York	U.S.A. (2)	5377	7159700	5934632

<b>Representative offices</b>	Beijing (Peking)	China	Tel. 65931871	Fax 65003275
	Shanghai	China	Tel. 65072775	Fax 65072776
	Santiago	Chile	Tel. 2339726	Fax 2519351

### Sister, Subsidiary & Associated Companies

Arab Bank	Percentage of Ownership
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. - Zurich, Geneva	100%
Arab Bank Australia Ltd. - Sydney	100%
Arab Bank (Austria) AG - Vienna	100%
Arab Bank AG - Frankfurt / Germany	100%
Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A. - Geneva	100%
Arab Tunisian Bank - Tunis	64%
Arab Bank Maroc - Morocco	50%
Oman Arab Bank - Oman	49%
Arab National Bank - Saudi Arabia	40%

### Sister, Subsidiary and associated companies

	Country	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	Zurich	5281	2657111	2657330
	Geneva	1096	7151211	7322460
Arab Bank Australia Ltd.	Sydney	N-645	3778900	2215428
Arab Bank (Austria) AG	Vienna	100	5134240	51342409
Arab Bank AG	Frankfurt	100127	242590	235471
Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A.	Geneva	1506	7326003	7387229
Arab Tunisian Bank	Tunis	520	351155	349278
Oman Arab Bank S.A.O.	Ruwi	2010	706265	797736
Arab Bank Maroc	Casablanca	13810	223152	200233
Arab National Bank	Riyadh	56921	4029000	4027747
Arabia Insurance Co.	Beirut	11-2172	363610	365139

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# Clinton releases medical data in response to Dole

WASHINGTON (R) — Stung by complaints from Republican Bob Dole, the White House Friday released President Bill Clinton's medical history to show that he had no major health problems.

Included in a packet of papers released was a report that he underwent a test for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, in 1990 and it was negative. The test was described as part of an health insurance physical.

A four-page summary of Mr. Clinton's medical history by his physician, Dr. Connie Mariano, said Mr. Clinton has no history of hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted disease, cancer, stroke or heart disease.

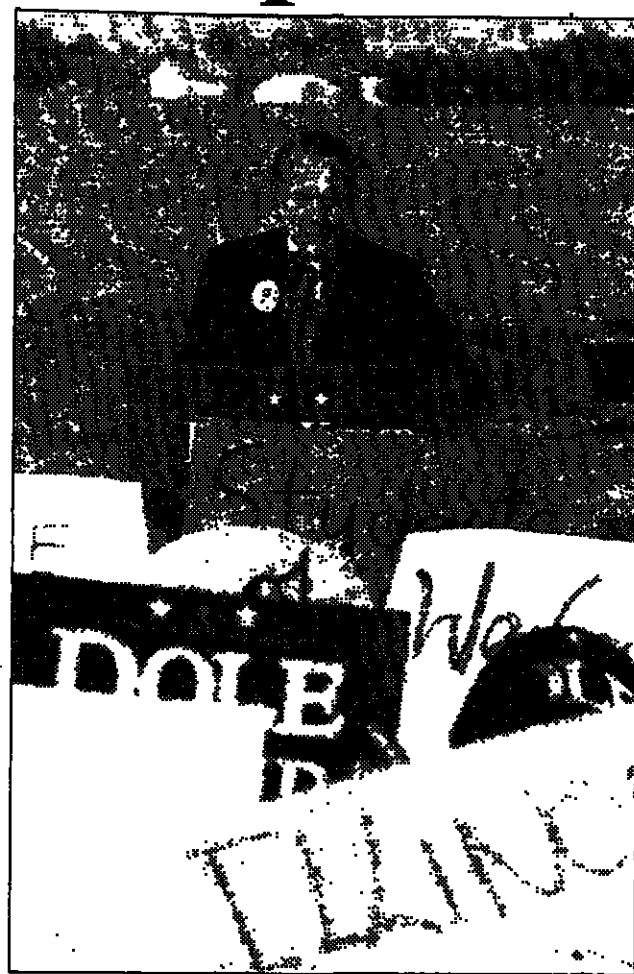
The summary reported one problem that had not previously been disclosed — that he suffers from high-frequency hearing loss. But it said his hearing for regular speech is normal.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the problem could be attributed to hearing gunshots at close range while hunting in Arkansas when he was growing up, or loud music from playing in his high school band.

Sen. Dole had repeatedly demanded that Mr. Clinton release his full medical records and suggested that his failure to do so meant the president may be hiding something. "Let's have your health records, Mr. President," Sen. Dole said Thursday. "I gave them all of mine."

That led to a White House news briefing Thursday during a Clinton campaign trip in Fresno, California, where Mr. McCurry was asked bluntly whether the president had a sexually transmitted disease. Mr. McCurry said no and told reporters he was "astonished" the question had been raised.

The Dole campaign was still not satisfied and said Mr. Clinton's medical records should be reviewed



A sea of signs lead to Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole, who speaks to a crowd at Vittner Farms in Bloomington, Illinois Friday. Sen. Dole wrapped up a campaign swing through the Midwest Friday, saying that although polls showed him behind in the largest of the states he visited, he remained confident (Reuter photo)

by independent doctors such as New York Times specialist Dr. Lawrence Altman.

"The \$64,000 question is, what didn't the White House release today? What was it that was so embarrassing that the White House felt the need to keep these records, if complete, from the American people?" said Sen. Dole's deputy campaign press secretary Christina Martin.

But Mr. McCurry said Friday night the medical history was as "complete as it gets" and should lay questions about Mr. Clinton's health to rest "once and for all."

"If this don't do it, I can't

imagine what else you'd need," he told reporters.

The report included supporting letters from Mr. Clinton's doctors. Absent, however, were the actual medical records as written by Mr. Clinton's doctors.

Mr. McCurry said the were being withheld in the interest of "preserving the dignity of the office."

The White House also issued the medical history of Vice-President Al Gore. It said Mr. Gore had a cancerous skin growth, common from sun exposure, surgically removed in 1993 with no recurrence.

Mr. Clinton spent the day at the White House, conferring with foreign policy

advisers on the situation in Iraq, while Sen. Dole was out on the hustings in Ohio and Michigan, pledging to make trade policy a campaign issue.

"We've seen the trade deficit grow and grow and grow in the Clinton administration," Sen. Dole told a factory audience in Ohio, adding that a tougher trade policy would go hand-in-hand with his tax-cutting economic programme to create jobs.

"When you add it all up, we think it's going to create the growth that we need in America," Sen. Dole said.

In Washington, the conservative Christian Coalition urged presidential candidates to stress personal morality and family values, not just taxes and the economy.

This election is not about a poverty in our pocket-books, it is about a poverty in our souls," said coalition executive director Ralph Reed. "It's about the breaking of the family. The coarsening of our culture, a loss of civility, a loss of innocence, a loss of values and it is about a moral crisis that ails the heart and the soul of America."

The group, which claims 1.7 million members, gave a cool reception to billionaire Ross Perot when he tried to discount the impression that his 1992 candidacy helped put Mr. Clinton in the White House.

Speaking as the crowd booed, the Reform Party's candidate pleaded: "I ask you, as honest Christian people, to please go to the library and study the exit polls from the 1992 election. You will find I drew equally from both candidates."

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup tracking poll showed Mr. Clinton with a 23 point lead in a three-way race, with 55 per cent of likely voters favouring him. Sen. Dole had 32 per cent and Mr. Perot got six per cent. The poll had a margin of error of four percentage points.



Northern League Leader Umberto Bossi arrives for the first demonstration near the source of the Po River at the start of three days of rallies which will end in Venice when Bossi plans to declare independence Sunday. The League is planning demonstrations and a human chain along the Po River, which they claim as the territory of "Padania" (Reuter photo)

## Italian secessionist's march to sea hits low water

CREMONA, Italy (R) — Secessionist Umberto Bossi's trek across Italy to declare "independence" for his self-styled northern state faltered Saturday when river conditions forced him to abandon a boat trip.

But his supporters were out in force in brilliant sunshine in the northern town of Cremona where Mr. Bossi was due to begin a rally around midday. Witnesses said more than 1,000 people were already gathered on the second day of a three-day campaign.

The firebrand leader, who Friday began his symbol-laden "march to the sea" along the River Po, Italy's longest river, was forced to drive instead of sail into his Northern League party's heartland in Lombardy for his first rally of the day.

The League had hired a "taxi-boat" called "Friends Of The Po" to take Mr. Bossi from Pavia to Cremona, where he was due to address supporters around midday. But low water levels along some stretches of the water forced the rethink.

The abrupt change of plan followed ugly scenes at the end of the first day of Mr. Bossi's campaign to liberate the vague northern state he calls "Padania" which was set to culminate Sunday with a declaration of independence in the lagoon city of Venice.

Left-wing youths attacked League supporters gathered on the banks of the Po near Turin for a rally and fireworks show and police had to use tear gas to bring the situation under control.

About a dozen people, including several police officers, were slightly hurt in Friday night's clashes started by some 700 youths. One car was destroyed and several damaged, police said.

A light show spelling out the name "Padania" in the night sky at the end of the rally also failed to go according to plan.

The lights did not work and Mr. Bossi said sabotage was to blame.

Confusion abounded over the exact programme of events on the second leg of Mr. Bossi's trip, which takes him through Lombardy to Borgoforte near the mediaeval town of Mantua where his self-styled parliament of the north sits.

League supporters in 30

buses had been expected to try to block seven bridges across the Po in the town of Pavia but there was no sign of any activity, witnesses said.

The party's deputy in Pavia, Giancarlo Malvestito, told reporters Friday that no such blockade was planned. But police said the demonstration had been rescheduled for Sunday.

The daily newspaper in Cremona, La Provincia, said Mr. Bossi's itinerary for Saturday remained "top secret".

The first of a string of anti-Bossi demonstrations in favour of Italian unity were planned during the day, including a rally by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in Verona.

Some 3,000 followers turned out in Turin to hear Mr. Bossi declare the first day, in which he conducted the quasi-religious rite of filling a flask with water from the Alpine source of the Po to symbolise the birth of "Padania", a towering success.

The Padanian nation knows that we are carrying

out an illegal act with regard to the (Italian) constitution," he told supporters Friday.

"We trust in the conscience of the people and international law, which recognises our right to self-determination."

Mr. Bossi, who garnered a better-than-expected 10.6 per cent in Italy's general election in April, has brushed aside evidence since then that few Italians share his secession aspirations.

He has promised that millions will turn out in Venice Sunday evening for his declaration, which the League has likened to the U.S. declaration of independence in 1776. But an opinion poll published Friday showed just 7.6 per cent of Italians favoured secession and 85.6 per cent were opposed.

As Venice prepared for the League's grand finale, police said a party office in the city was attacked overnight by a firebomb, but damage was slight. An office of the far-right National Alliance was also targeted in another attack.

## Costly cab fare for workers who made crank call

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Two young Malaysian workers who tried to save taxi fare by calling a police emergency hotline to get a free ride home have been fined a whopping 6,000 Singapore dollars (\$4,300) each. Lee Kok Hwee and Kong Chee Hong, both 19 and employed at a Singapore factory, were chatting the night away at a housing estate last May when they realised it was past midnight, the Straits Times reported Wednesday. Buses home were no longer in service and taking a taxi would have meant a post-midnight surcharge of 50 per cent of the fare, so they came up with the idea of calling the "999" emergency line to pretend they had been robbed. Police responded but when they were questioned, the two confessed that they made up a story about having been robbed of their wallets by six men in motorbikes, prompting the authorities to arrest and prosecute them. Mr. Lee, who made the telephone call, pleaded guilty to the charge of making a false report, while Mr. Kong admitted helping him.

## Woman goes hungry at all-male club

HELSINKI (R) — A Finnish union said Friday it may complain to equality authorities after Helsinki's all-male Bourse Club refused to serve dinner to a woman. Waiters at the club's restaurant snatched the place setting from in front of Riitta Tyolajarvi, a doctor, who had arrived for dinner with her male colleagues after a meeting at the 84-year old exclusive club, daily Helsingin Sanomat said. "I thought at first it was a joke," Dr. Tyolajarvi told the newspaper. "But when no one made any effort to correct the situation, I got irritated and decided to leave." Dr. Tyolajarvi was representing the Finnish Confederation of Salaried Employees (STTK), which said it is considering lodging a complaint with the equality ombudsman. A club spokesman said women — highly emancipated in Finland with the longest voting history in Europe — were strictly barred from the restaurant on "Club nights." He said the restaurant had offered to serve the group in a separate room.

## Vice-president rears goats at Harare residence

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwean Vice-President Joshua Nkomo is rearing more than 100 goats at his official Harare residence against city regulations, a newspaper said Friday. The weekly Zimbabwe Independent newspaper said the veteran politician's neighbours in the posh Mandara district had lodged a complaint with the city council about the animals. Council officials confirmed the goats' presence.

## Cat walks 200 km home

LISBON (AFP) — A seven-year-old cat walked 200 kilometres home after going missing on a camp site during the summer holidays. Her owners were astonished when she turned up a month later on their doorstep after she had been given up for lost. Camila, whose extraordinary odyssey was covered by all the national newspapers and television here, disappeared from the family tent while they were camping and all efforts to find her were in vain. At the end of the holidays, they packed up to go home to Viana Do Castelo in central Portugal after leaving their address with fellow campers in case Camila surfaced after they had gone. "I couldn't believe my eyes when she turned up at the house. It was Camila alright, a bit thinner and her claws worn down," one of her happy owners was quoted as saying, adding that he had no idea how the clever cat found her way home.

## Dissident Khmer Rouge leader gets royal pardon

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk pardoned dissident Khmer Rouge leader Ieng Sary Saturday for his role in the feared guerrilla group's "killing fields" reign in the late 1970s, one of the country's two co-premiers said.

"His Majesty the King signed the amnesty before 11 o'clock this morning with the support of two thirds of the (members of) parliament," Second Prime Minister Hun Sen told Reuters.

The premiers wanted amnesty for Ieng Sary, who split from Khmer Rouge hardliners in early August, in the interests of national reconciliation after decades of war and bloodshed.

The king had earlier said he would only consider an amnesty on receiving written requests from the government and a two-thirds majority of the 120-strong parliament.

Mr. Hun Sen said it had been easy to collect the parliamentary signatures as he and first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh were leaders of the two main parties, the Cambodian People's Party and the Prince's FUNCINPEC party.

Mr. Ieng Sary, who was foreign minister during Pol Pot's brutal 1975-79 Khmer Rouge regime when more than one million people died, was sentenced to death in absentia for his role in the genocide.

But he has denied any involvement in the killings and Monday said the government should sort out his legal status in order for peace talks to advance.

Mr. Ieng Sary split from the Khmer Rouge last month with several thousand followers and later

struck a ceasefire deal with the government.

But the headline Khmer Rouge faction loyal to Mr. Pol Pot has condemned the breakaway group and remains at war.

Khmer Rouge forces loyal to Pol Pot said Saturday they had taken control of Pailin, one of two major bases held by Ieng Sary's supporters in the northwest.

But breakaway Khmer Rouge sources contacted by telephone in the border stronghold denied the claim and the government's armed forces Deputy Chief of Staff, Pol Saroeun, told Reuters: "It is not true. Do not believe it."

Radio controlled by the mainstream Khmer Rouge faction, in a broadcast monitored in Phnom Penh, said fighters loyal to Mr. Pol Pot controlled Pailin after fighting a small group of dissidents led by Ieng Sary ally Ei Chien near the border.

The radio claimed that Commander Ei Chien had fled from Pailin, a gem-mining and logging centre close to the Thailand border, on Sept. 3.

But Sok Lee, a Khmer Rouge official in Pailin loyal to Ei Chien, also denied the claims, telling Reuters by telephone, "if it is true (that hardliners had taken Pailin), how can I stay here?"

Divisional commanders Ei Chien and Sok Peap said last month they had split with the mainstream Khmer Rouge group and backed Mr. Ieng Sary and his moves towards peace and reconciliation.

The Khmer Rouge signed a United Nations brokered peace accord in 1991 but later reneged on the pact and have been fighting the coalition government that emerged from general elections in 1991.

## Bodies of 2 more TWA crash victims found

HAUPPAUGE, New York (R) — Divers recovered the remains of two more victims from TWA Flight 800, leaving the bodies of 17 victims still missing, officials said Friday.

The remains, recovered off the coast of Long Island, New York, in the past few days, are the first to be found in more than two weeks, according to the Suffolk County Medical Examiner's Office.

The remains of the latest recovered victims have been identified, the medical examiner said.

Recovery teams have been searching for bodies and clues since the Paris-bound jet exploded in midair on July 17, killing all 230 people on board. A total of 213 bodies have been found.

Investigators have found microscopic chemical traces of two types of explosives in the wreckage, but say they lack sufficient evidence to declare that a bomb destroyed the plane.

They maintain there are still three possible explanations for the crash — a bomb, a missile or a

mechanical failure.

The Washington Post reported in its Saturday editions that investigators have been unable to link the crash to international terrorist groups.

The paper quoted high-ranking intelligence officials as saying they suspected from the start that the crash was the result of an explosive device and are confounded that a network of worldwide intelligence operations has failed to yield a useful connection between terrorists and the crash.

"The evidence of a bomb is shaky, and evidence of a mechanical failure is even shakier," it quoted one high-ranking official as saying.

Slowed in recent weeks by bad weather, recovery teams have retrieved about 70 per cent of the plane's wreckage from the ocean floor and say they expect to finish the task in the next few weeks.

Investigators are considering vacuuming the sandy ocean bottom to sift for additional evidence.

## Thousands vie for place on Hong Kong leadership body

HONG KONG (R) — Nearly 6,000 Hong Kong residents will compete for just 400 places on a panel entrusted with the critical task of picking the territory's future political elite after Britain hands it back to China next year.

Fei Fih, deputy secretary-general of the Preparatory Committee office, said 5,833 people applied for a place on the panel in a month-long nomination period which ended Saturday.

"This shows Hong Kong people are enthusiastic about shaping their own destiny," Mr. Fei said.

The 400-strong Selection Committee will select the first person to lead Hong Kong after the territory reverts to Chinese rule in mid-1997 after more than 150 years of British rule.

The committee will also appoint a provisional legislature to replace the current elected body which is to be scrapped by Beijing after it

assumes power at midnight on June 30, 1997.

Selection Committee members are expected to be appointed in October by Beijing's hand-picked Preparatory Committee, which is overseeing the handover.

The Selection Committee is expected to name the territory's first post-colonial chief executive in November.

However, it is still unclear how the Selection Committee's 400 members will be chosen or how they in turn will choose Hong Kong's new chief executive.

China has promised Hong Kong considerable autonomy when British rule ends in 1997.

But pro-democracy protesters Saturday condemned China's method of picking the territory's future leaders.

Twelve demonstrators attempted to submit a blank nomination form minutes before the dead-

line as a symbol of what they said was unrepresentative and elitist selection process.

Security guards barred the protesters from entering the Preparatory Committee's office in Hong Kong's central business district. The protesters then tore up the nomination form.

"We are greatly disappointed," a spokesman for the demonstrators, Chan Kwok-Leung, said by telephone. "China only listens to what it likes to hear and receives nomination forms from those it likes."

Beijing has assured Hong Kong citizens that they, not Chinese officials, will lead the territory of 6.2 million people who have been assured they can keep their capitalist way of life, unchanged for 50 years.

China, angered by electoral reforms sponsored by British Governor Chris Patten, plans to dismantle the existing fully elected chamber at the handover.



## Jordan Times

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### Lingering problem

WHEN 46 per cent of our workforce is employed by government, then obviously there is something structurally wrong with the do business. According to the Department of Budget (DoB), JD 333 million is paid annually to civil servants in salaries, an amount that represents 19 per cent of the entire state budget totalling JD 1.745 million in 1996. If we add the salaries of the military, the total percentage of salaries climbs up to more than 37 per cent of the budget. The problem does not end there because there are 114,449 retired civil and military people who receive JD 189 million annually, according to the latest calculations. Combining the salaries of civil servants, the military and the retired brings the aggregate percentage to more than 46 per cent of the state budget.

Not only that. The state still was to pay the salaries of people employed by independent public institutions, an additional JD 81 million or 13.4 per cent of the budget. State universities and institutions of higher learning pay salaries to some 9,700 people, amounting to JD 65 million and representing more than 10 per cent of the budget. Assuming that state universities and independent public institutions constitute a different category of state expenditure, because most of them are self-sufficient in terms of earnings and expenses, we are still stuck with two sets of facts: almost half of the country's one million workforce is dependent on the state for employment and more than 37 per cent of the state budget is earmarked to salaries of so-called active civil servants and military personnel.

As for expenditure on retired people, there also seems to be a big problem there because we have somehow managed to needlessly create a very large number of retirees which could have been avoided. When the government in all its branches send people retirement, it not only inflates the number of retirees but also replenishes the ranks of civil servants and military personnel with at least an equal number of people. In the final analysis, the government ends up paying twice instead of once. This in itself calls for a more economical retiring policy. The crux of the problem does not lie there in any case. The main issue here is whether the country should reverse the trend of increasing dependency on the government for employment by downsizing the state workforce and creating new opportunities within the private sector to absorb the bulk of the Jordanian working class. As we talk about privatisation, we should begin the process of downsizing state bureaucracy right away. It is no secret that many of those employed by the state are not as productive as they should be. Cutting out the fat from civil service promises not only the reduction of costs but also increase in productivity. Of course there is no denying that when the government hires less people, it will have to find new working opportunities for those left out elsewhere. This is where privatisation and free enterprise come in. In order for the government to take drastic and effective measures against unproductive expenditures it will have to take the necessary steps to spur the private sector into action. Business confidence, though, may not be as high as some of us pretend it to be for a variety of reasons. The measures adopted thus far to encourage private investment still need to be strengthened and invigorated. We realise however that the problem is not one that can be solved in a short period of time. We also realise that a reform of the public sector should be effected gradually. Meanwhile, a serious effort should be launched to identify the access baggage of civil servants and to either retain and relocate them or prepare them for work within the private sector.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily questioned the reason for the U.S. administration's onslaught on Iraq and wondered why the U.S. claims to have achieved victory over Iraq in 1991 when it still masses war planes and troops to fight that Arab country. Fahed Fanek said that America's current actions, proof of its failure in the "Desert storm" campaign against Saddam Hussein, are aimed at protecting its oil interests in the Arab region. Being launched shortly before the presidential campaign, the American onslaught is also aimed to serve President Bill Clinton's election purposes and to rally American voters' support for his policies. But the writer said that foolish actions do not necessarily achieve their objectives and could backfire and cost the aggressor a heavy price.

AL DUSTOUR daily expressed the view that the coming visit to the Middle East by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross would not yield any fruitful results. Mr. Ross' visit in the coming week is not bound to revive the stalled peace negotiations between Israel and Syria because of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's determination not to cede any part of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and his demand that negotiations start afresh without any pre-conditions, said the daily. A similar negative result is awaiting Mr. Ross' discussions of the Israeli-Palestinian issue which is aggravated by Israel's intransigent position with regard to the redeployment of the Israeli troops in Hebron and its determination to carry out Jewish settlement programmes on Arab lands, continued the paper. It said that Mr. Ross' tour will more or less witness an exchange of views but no practical steps to move the peace talks on both tracks forward.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Past decade sees painful drop in standard of living

ONE MAY not believe that the current standard of living of the Jordanians is 47 per cent lower than it used to be 10 years ago, but this is a fact which should not be ignored. Using the per capita share of the gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator to measure the well-being or the standard of living is sometimes misleading. Major components of GDP have nothing to do with the population's standard of living, such as public consumption, investments and capital formation, exports, imports and change in inventories.

The fundamental component which determines the standard of living is the average share of the individual of real private consumption. The question then boils down to what has happened to the per capita real private consumption over the past 10 years: 1985-1995.

In 1985, private consumption in Jordan stood at JD 1,794.4 million. It rose to JD 2,858.1 in 1995, in current prices, a nominal increase of 59.2 per cent or an average annual growth rate of 4.76 per cent.

This would have looked like a reasonable growth rate had it not been for the fact that prices rose during the same period by 91.4 per cent, an annual compound rate of 6.7 per cent, an indication that the real volume of private consumption in 1995 was in effect equal to JD 1,496.4 million in 1985 dinars, or less than the private consumption in that year by 16.6 per cent in constant prices.

To make things even worse, this smaller amount of goods and services which was available for private consumption was to be distributed among a greater number of consumers. The population of Jordan used to be 2.69 million in 1985 but rose to 4.25 million in 1995. Thus, per capita consumption calculated at constant 1985 prices dropped from JD 667.2 in 1985 to JD 352 in 1995.

**"Not even the heartless IMF officials and experts thought or demanded that Jordan go that far in adjustment."**

Based on the above, we can conclude that the standard of living of the average Jordanian individual declined by 47.2 per cent, to reach 52.8 per cent of the level which was prevailing in 1985, a decline of 6.2 per cent a year for ten consecutive years.

Admittedly, the above figures and conclusions stun me. I went over the figures and calculations twice to make sure I was correct based on the statistics published by the Central Bank of Jordan. I still hope that some other economic analysts will prove me wrong.

Naturally, the level of private consumption in 1985 may

not be the right yardstick. After all, we admit that the Jordanian people were, at that time, living beyond their means. At the time, the relatively high level of consumption was made possible by heavy borrowing and Arab aid. Such a level should be reduced or at least frozen for a few years while all growth should be devoted to savings and investment. However, slashing consumption by almost one half of what it used to be 10 years ago did not cross the mind of any economic planner. Not even the heartless International Monetary Fund officials and experts thought or demanded that Jordan go that far in adjustment.

One has to take into account that this huge sacrifice was not distributed evenly among the whole population. Some social groups must have reduced their standard of living to less than half.

Unfortunately, no index is available for wages and salaries in the private and public sectors to help determine the real change in real income of those groups. However, if civil servants and labourers find the purchasing power of their monthly payments to be half of what it used to be, despite several increments and salary adjustments they have been granted during the last ten years, they should not complain because this is what happened to the Jordanian people as a whole.

## 'Peace activists on both sides can and should save the peace process'

By Bassam Abu Sharif

THE SITUATION in the Middle East, in general, and in Palestine, in particular, is quite difficult. It has become a source of worry for the international community after the developments that followed the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel. With no clear policy and well defined goals in the region war might erupt and the peace process could be buried. Bloodshed could engulf the scene again. But the peace process can be saved.

It only needs people of vision, courage and wisdom, as was needed at the start of the 'peace process'. In order to save the peace process and push it forward the Palestinians and the Israelis need to cling to the promises of peace and not to leave the ground for extremists on either side.

The late Yitzhak Rabin was a general of a new era who realised that the future generations of Israel and Palestine need a hero of peace.

The international community, the Israelis and the Palestinians should make it clear to Netanyahu and the extremists that the Middle East does not want new generals of war.

This should be done with extreme care and maximum involvement. Violence, should always be avoided, otherwise we will turn once more to the vicious circle of Middle Eastern politics. But this should never mean allowing the expansionist anti-peace policy of Netanyahu to prevail.

The question of how to do that can be answered by the peace camp in Israel, Palestine and the world. The U.S., which is a partner to the agreements signed in the Middle East, should not attend only signing celebrations or funerals. It has an obligation to carry on an even-handed foreign policy, in spite of the ongoing election campaign. An American role that is not fair cannot be accepted. That will definitely lead to negative repercussions throughout the Middle East and the U.S. interests as well.

Europe has an obligation too. The myth that Europe cannot influence the situation in the Middle East is an

old one. Europe is a giant who can do a lot.

Three months ago, the Israelis voted for Netanyahu to become prime minister of Israel. It was a mere 0.4 per cent of the Israelis who made it possible for him to beat Shimon Peres. To many observers and interested people that was either surprising or disappointing. The Palestinian and the Arab sides were definitely among the disappointed since Netanyahu had announced a programme that does not favour peace under the formula of "Land for peace". The results of the elections to the Knesset where similar and this neutralised it as a possible lever vis-a-vis the policies of the new Israeli government.

#### The Israeli choice

It is quite important for the decision makers and politicians in the Middle East to understand the reasons behind the Israeli choice.

Based on a thorough follow-up of the Israelis' mood and reaction to the peace process since the Oslo agreement, I believe that it is basically their worry and uncertainty regarding the future that decided such a result. This was a major factor but the other major factor had to do with the reluctant policy of the previous government of Shimon Peres during the year that preceded the elections. During that period, and most probably for what the Labour mistakenly perceived as being a helping factor in the elections, i.e. projecting the Labour government as a "tough" one too, Peres pursued an "iron fist" policy.

The schedule for the redeployment of the Israeli army from Hebron was delayed more than once. The West Bank and Gaza were sealed off intermittently, thus preventing Palestinian workers from going to their jobs, which led to increased economic hardships for them.

The Israeli army during that period waged a large scale attack of Hizbollah bases in South Lebanon, but succeeded only to hit Lebanese villages and civilian quarters that resulted in

killing and injuring many civilians. And the peak of the wrong policy of the Israeli government was to shell and bombard a shelter for civilians in the area of the U.N. forces in South Lebanon in the village of Cana. That was a massacre, which even the Israelis condemned.

Furthermore, the Peres government kept putting sticks in the weak wheels of the newly born Palestinian economy which helped to shed doubt by Palestinians on the seriousness of the peace promises. Netanyahu, making use of the reluctant policy of the Labour, stressed on the factors of fear, uncertainty and worry among Israelis during his campaign.

He used these terms during the campaign hundreds of times. He used them eleven times during the only TV debate he had with Shimon Peres. He utilised all the expertise he accumulated during his work in the U.S. to arouse in the Israelis their worries about "what is to become of Israel after the peace process".

Because of this, and the reluctant policy of the Labour government, the Israelis, who confirmed through polls on the eve of the elections that they are supporting the peace process, voted for Netanyahu. Their worries and fears, plus the extremist minority in Israel, voted for Netanyahu's programme that promised them lots of things, among which are: "More settlers on the West Bank and Gaza," no redeployment from Hebron and, on top of all, the fact that "Jerusalem will never be negotiable."

#### The Palestine worry

The majority of Palestinians supported the peace initiative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and accepted the promised "Palestine independent state" envisioned by the Oslo agreement.

The Palestinians, who suffered a lot under occupation for the past twenty eight years, believed the promises given by the donor countries and their leaders "that milk and honey will soon flow."

The fact is that neither

milk nor honey have flown. The Israelis kept their grip on the economic situation while the Palestinian Authority could not manage to start projects that would create jobs for the Palestinians.

As a result, the Palestinians, who waited and suffered for a long time, are becoming frustrated.

Furthermore, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was not able to open the door wide for Palestinian nationals who possess the know-how to participate in the establishment of institutions. Instead, the PNA filled the file and rank of the institutions with PLO members' who, in spite of their struggle and sacrifice, might not be the best to man the jobs.

The democracy the Palestinians were longing for was in fact never allowed by the Israelis nor (probably as a result) by the PNA. The Palestinian elections did not translate the aspirations of the Palestinian people, or of those who enthusiastically anticipated changes to the better.

It is well-understood that the Palestinians voted for the lists engineered by the president and his organisation Fateh. The fact that the "old" organisations were still appealing to the majority of the Palestinians, the absence of plurality and the lack of experience of the Palestinians in the democratic life (having been under occupation for decades) pushed the Palestinians to choose Yasser Arafat to fulfill his promises about the "milk and honey" of the peace process.

Nine months later, the Palestinians are disappointed. No milk, no honey. Only Netanyahu and the policy of destroying Arab houses in Jerusalem, rejecting redeployment of Israeli forces in Hebron, hesitating to meet Arafat, confiscating more Arab lands to build new roads for the settlements, etc.

A new redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank was implemented in a way that brought back the situation of two years ago. That created a serious worry among Palestinians. In fact it made the Palestinians doubt the future of the

peace process.

Moreover, the PNA, in order to comply with the Israeli request for security, gave full authority to different security institutions. This was misused in some cases, and the security institutions used the "free hand" against innocent Palestinians, using unacceptable methods for torturing the suspects. That brought about further feelings of mistrust.

The result of these Israeli-PNA factors made the Palestinians sceptic and pushed them to a self-defence position.

The conditions that prevail in the Middle East presently are quite tense and complicated. They are the result of the pursuit by the Israeli government of a policy that is not in harmony with the peace process.

The Israeli government follows a policy that does not abide by the agreements already signed with the Palestinians.

Instructions were given to allow settlers to enlarge their settlements on the West Bank to demolish Arab houses in East Jerusalem and to change the provision plan to redeploy the Israeli army in Hebron. As a reaction to such a policy, President Arafat declared that the Palestinians can resort to other means and soon start another intifada. He called for a general strike, which was effective as a protest against the Israeli measures.

Both Netanyahu and Arafat had their first meeting. Netanyahu did not change his mind or his policy.

He is ready to negotiate but according to his programme and not on the basis of resolutions or previously signed agreements. He is not ready to discuss or negotiate Jerusalem.

He is not ready to stop settlers from expanding in the West Bank.

Arafat, on the other hand, cannot afford to remain silent vis-a-vis such policies of the Israeli government.

Both leaders will be racing during the coming months against time. This period is that of American presidential elections and developments in the Gulf

region.

Such a race, with all the contradictions involved, might lead to the breakout of big problems.

The Palestinian frustration will increase day after day if Netanyahu continues his policy for the Palestinians feel that they are left to accommodate the Israeli policy. Therefore, it is quite important and essential to keep the peace process going and to stop the policies of the Israeli government.

The peace process is strategically going on; it will suffer tactically if the Netanyahu government continues to implement activities that are against the text and spirit of peace.

All efforts should be coordinated to make it practically impossible for Netanyahu's government to create realities that endanger the peace process strategically. In coordinating the efforts, basic principles should be kept and respected. The main one is no violence as it can only result in more violence. Therefore, the struggle should use civil means and should be carried out by both Israelis and Palestinians. That will be a qualitative change and a first step towards a future Israeli-Palestinian cooperation.

The struggle should use civil means and should be carried out by both Israelis and Palestinians. That will be a qualitative change and a first step towards a future Israeli-Palestinian cooperation.

The peace camp in Israel that was negotiating "yesterday" with the PLO is required to join forces with the PLO. "Today" the joint efforts of the Palestinian and Israeli peace camps will have a programme and a plan of struggle to force the Israeli government to stop all activities that endanger the peace process.

A supreme committee from the Labour and peace camp in Israel and the PLO and peace forces in Palestine should be formed soon to map out a plan. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Israelis can do a lot.

The writer is advisor to PNA President Yasser Arafat. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

### Right selection pays

To the Editor:

FOLLOWING THE release of student acceptance lists by Jordanian universities in August, one wonders about the nature of the student selection procedures adopted. Many of our universities enjoy international recognition, but they still fail to spot the inadequacy of our current student selection methods. This can have dangerous long-term effects on the efficiency of our future workforce.

This especially concerns students annually admitted to university to study subjects that lead to vocational careers, such as medicine and law. Any doctor would tell you that a fantastic achievement in the tawjihi exam is hardly an asset for making a good doctor; any lawyer would tell the same. It is ridiculous, for example, to immediately turn down all aspiring doctors with tawjihi

hi scores lower than 96 per cent! It should be obvious to all that, at least by chance of probability, many of these rejected applicants will have personal qualities that make them well-suited to becoming talented professionals.

A most basic requirement for successful selection of our future doctors and lawyers would be to have students interviewed by a panel of senior professionals. This panel may be able to pick up some applicants with those desirable qualities, spot some who are forced into a profession because they achieved the grade, and be more considerate towards the dedicated ones who worked hard to enter a long-sought career but achieved marginally less than required.

An interview list would still consist of high achievers, but should be more flexible and include a wider range of tawjihi scores.

### LETTERS

The money and senior professionals' time needed to be spent in implementing such a change might seem unacceptable, but are certainly worth it. This is because we will be avoiding a disaster: groups of doctors and lawyers who can memorise pages of text and demonstrate delightfully neat handwriting, but who are nevertheless incompetent professionals.

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



# News

Jordan Times, Saturday, September 15, 1996

## Hurricane heads north; may spare U.S.

MIAMI (R) — Hurricane Hortense looked likely to spare the United States mainland a drenching as it headed north through the Atlantic Friday but the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico were counting the cost of its Caribbean rampage.

Various reports from Dominican officials put the number of dead as high as 10, with 50 people missing. The death toll in Puerto Rico rose to 15.

Villages and towns in the Dominican Republic were cut off and thousands of people sought temporary shelter after their homes were swept away, the officials said.

After dousing Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic earlier this week, Hortense accelerated and lost power Friday as it headed toward the cooler waters of the northern Atlantic, the National Hurricane Centre said.

At 11 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT), Hortense's centre was near latitude 29.8 north and longitude 70.9 west, or about 740 kilometres southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

It was moving North near 18 mph (29 kph) and a north-northeastward motion with an increase in forward speed was expected during the next 24 hours.

Maximum sustained winds have decreased to near 110 mph (177 kph) and were likely to weaken further Friday.

"It's looking like it should be out of the area of the east coast by Saturday night or Sunday," Michelle Huber of the National Hurricane Centre told Reuters. "There may be some higher waves on the beaches but that's about all."

In Puerto Rico, declared a disaster zone by President Bill Clinton, police found another body Friday morning in the north central mountain town of Sidra.

That brought the official death toll to 15, mostly from floods and mudslides, but several people were still missing.

"We're expecting the number of dead and missing to rise," said police spokeswoman Maribel Hernandez. "We are just now getting into towns that were inaccessible."

One of the bodies recovered Thursday was the last member of a family of six, all of whom were killed when river waters swept away their home in southeastern Guayama town.

The death toll in the Dominican Republic was also likely to rise. The official figure Thursday was eight but confused figures emerged Friday.

Amable Aritys Castro, president of the Dominican Senate, said at least 10 people had died. The Civil Defence in Santo Domingo said the number of missing had reached 50.

Three provinces — Altamira, Nagua and Samana — were declared to be in a state of emergency as swollen rivers burst their banks and sent flood waters down mountains and valleys.

The Public Health Ministry said three people were killed and three missing in Higüey, 166 kilometres east of the capital.

Reporters who travelled to Higüey said at least five bridges had been badly damaged, cutting off a number of towns and villages. People had been virtually without electricity or drinking water since Tuesday, officials said.

Public buildings were full of homeless people. Food and blankets had been brought in by helicopter but relief supplies were scarce, officials said.

After leaving the Dominican Republic, Hortense passed the Turks and Caicos Islands, a British colony of about 13,000 residents, overnight on its way to the Bahamas. Officials in the Turks and Caicos said damage was minor and no casualties had been reported.

Forecasters said large swells could affect Bermuda and parts of the U.S. east coast during the next day or two.



Rap music star Tupac Shakur died Friday, six days after being shot four times while riding in a car in Las Vegas. Shakur is shown here at the MTV Music Video Awards in New York on Sept. 4 (Reuters photo)

## Rap star Shakur dies

LAS VEGAS (R) — Rap music star Tupac Shakur, whose lyrics often mirrored his own troubled life, died Friday, six days after his car was sprayed with bullets in a gangland-style ambush.

Shakur, shot four times, died at University Medical Centre in Las Vegas Friday afternoon, the hospital said in a statement. It said the cause of death was "respiratory failure and cardiopulmonary arrest."

Shakur, 25, one of the most notorious performers of hardcore "gangsta" rap, had been in critical condition since Saturday night's shooting near the famed Las Vegas strip.

He had his right lung removed in one of two operations last Sunday. The hospital had released little information about his condition but hospital sources said he had been on life support since the surgery.

## Separatist commander reported shot in inter-Chechen combat

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A separatist commander was killed overnight in fighting between Chechens loyal to Moscow and separatist forces, a Russian Interior Ministry spokesman in the Caucasus republic, cited by Interfax, said Saturday.

According to the spokesman, the combat flared when a group of separatist fighters moved into the village of Ken Yurt in the Nadterechny region, north-western Chechnya, to set up a military post, and were met by resistance from armed anti-separatists.

The report has not been confirmed by other sources, and the identity of the commander who died was not given.

Nadterechny has been broadly opposed to the separatist cause, and was one of the main strongholds against former separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev who came to power in 1991.

Many of the towns and villages in the region have put up roadblocks to slow

the advance of separatist soldiers, although many of the region's inhabitants last week told AFP reporters that they wished to see reconciliation between the two Chechen parties.

Meanwhile, in Urus Martan, 25 kilometres south of Grozny, a local political leader denied rumours that a final peace deal with Chechen separatists must ensure that the region remains an integral part of Russia.

"In the course of the meeting it was stressed that the resolution of all these complex issues must be based only on the constitution of the Russian Federation and on the principle of the territorial integrity of Russia," the government press service said in a statement.

It said Mr. Chernomyrdin, who has taken on some responsibilities from Boris Yeltsin while the president prepares for heart surgery, had charged some officials with new tasks aimed at a lasting settlement following the peace deal signed by Kremlin security chief

Alexander Lebed on Aug. 31.

Gen. Lebed, who spoke at the meeting, agreed with the rebels to withdraw Russian troops and defer for five years the resolution of the separatists' demands for independence. Mr. Chernomyrdin has stressed the deal is not legally binding and ministers have said they are worried Gen. Lebed did not do enough to rule out secession.

Saturday's meeting discussed the formation of a transitional regional government for Chechnya, tightening up security in the area and ensuring the release of people held captive there.

The officials decided to hold weekly meetings, a move that appeared close to resurrecting the defunct committee on Chechnya, chaired by Mr. Chernomyrdin, which Mr. Yeltsin disbanded last month when he put Gen. Lebed in sole charge of ending the conflict.

## Baghdad says it wants to end crisis

(Continued from page 1)

The government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said in a front-page editorial: "Iraq, by suspending its military reaction to violations of our national airspace, until further notice, provides another proof of its strong keenness to avoid the eruption of crises."

The Iraqi News Agency quoted a Revolutionary Command Council spokesman as saying Baghdad still considered the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq to be illegitimate.

"Saddam Hussein knows what has to happen if he's going to step back from the brink of this problem," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"He has to stop his aggression. He has to stop his military movements which have posed an unacceptable risk to the United States and to our partners," he told reporters.

Mr. Burns dismissed statements by unnamed officials in Baghdad that suggest Iraq would like a dialogue with the United States. For a dialogue to happen, Mr. Burns said, Saddam Hussein must live up to his international obligations: stop his aggression against the Shiites and Kurds; stop taking threatening actions against U.S., British, French and Turkish aircraft; live up to his obligations imposed on him after the Gulf war; stop supporting terrorism; stop violating human rights.

"I can't imagine that there is anything he (Saddam Hussein) could say to us that would convince us that he is not bent on aggression," Mr. Burns said. "One thing we have learned about Saddam Hussein over the last five years... (is that) he cannot be trusted."

"If there were a diplomatic solution available to the United States, we would surely take it," Mr. Burns said. "If we felt that we could contain Saddam Hussein, if we could get him to stop his aggression in the region and live up to his international responsibilities, we would take that option, and we would be glad to negotiate any place in the world. But the reality is... he is not interested in negotiations and never has been... There is no diplomatic option that he has given us."

The fundamental objective of U.S. policy towards Iraq, Mr. Burns explained, "is to protect America's vital national interests in the security and the stability of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the other Gulf states, the stability of the flow of oil to Europe, Japan and the United States, and to make sure that he, Saddam Hussein, is not able to pose a security threat to those countries."

World oil prices had risen sharply amid expectations of an imminent U.S. attack against Iraq, but the rally ended after Baghdad appeared to step back from a confrontation.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon told reporters it would be "encouraging" if the Iraq declaration was followed by action, but added: "However, we will continue to move forces into the region as necessary to protect our interests."

Clinton administration officials spoke of a U.S. bid for broad-based international support for military moves. Most allies have been tepid at best in their support for the two cruise missile attacks which Mr. Clinton ordered last week.

With further military strikes being considered virtually inevitable, White House officials said Mr. Clinton would not be rushed and was taking time to build support among reluctant allies and the American public.

"He wants to build a consensus. It's important," one official said in noting that the president was willing to defer an immediate strike briefly in order to strengthen his diplomatic and political underpinnings, especially this close to the Nov. 5 presidential election.

When the latest U.S. moves are completed there will be about 19,000 navy, 6,200 army, and 7,000 air force personnel in the Gulf, compared with a total U.S. military presence of 19,000 in the region now.

The new army deployment to Kuwait consists of two "manoeuvre battalions" of 800 to 900 soldiers each to man the tanks and armoured vehicles. Accompanying the battalions are a field headquarters unit, self-propelled artillery units, and air-defence troops equipped with Stinger shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles.

President Clinton, meanwhile, took his case against Iraq to the American people Saturday, spelling out U.S. interests in the Gulf but without mentioning the U.S. troop buildup in the region or future action.

"America's vital interests in the Persian Gulf are constant and clear: To help protect our friends in the region against aggression, to work with others in the fight against terrorism, to preserve the free flow of oil, and to build support for a comprehensive Middle East policy," the president said in his weekly Saturday nationwide radio address.

Washington has also warned Baghdad against trying to rebuild air defence systems destroyed in the cruise missile

strikes.

But Iraq warned that it could kill Mr. Clinton's chances of reelection in November if he made false moves in Iraq.

"Don't wager on the Iraqi card and don't risk any new attempt to make Iraq's people cower, for electoral reasons. Leave Iraq alone," the official Al Qadisiya newspaper said. "You should remember that Iraq can kill you politically, because only a few weeks are left in the countdown to the circus of the American elections," the paper said.

The newspaper Babel pledged: "Their Stealth planes and their cruise missiles can go to hell. They can't kill us all. We shall fight to the last Iraqi citizen."

Iraq appeared confident, however, that its climbdown would foil any further U.S. attack. Al Jumhuriya said it had "deprived the United States of its pretext for new crimes." Al Jumhuriya said Iraq "has shown great restraint."

On top of Mr. Perry's tour, National Security Advisor Anthony Lake and Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff were to travel to Europe to rally support for the U.S. pressure on Iraq.

The Iraqi information minister, Abdul Al Ghani Abd Al Ghafur, lambasted the U.S. State Department's Burns for accusing President Saddam of squandering money on palaces and stowing some in foreign bank accounts.

"They are the palaces of the Iraqi people that they have built for Saddam Hussein..." Mr. Abdul Ghafur said in a statement reported by the Iraqi News Agency.

He also denied that President Saddam had any secret accounts and suggested that if the bank accounts existed the United States should confiscate the money.

"I say to them (Americans), take all the money registered in the name of Saddam Hussein in foreign banks."

A poem ridiculed Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, saying her smiles hid the "bitter humiliation" her country suffered with the collapse of its plans in northern Iraq, under the protection of a U.S.-led allied force since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

President Clinton telephoned Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Saturday to discuss tensions with Iraq and the defence secretary's trip to the region, the White House said.

Mr. Clinton telephoned the Saudi leader from on board Air Force One while en route from Washington to Raleigh, where he is viewing damage left by

hurricane Fran, said White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn.

Ms. Glynn declined to say if Mr. Clinton had made any specific requests of King Fahd but said that the conversation was "positive."

Spain refused the Stealth planes travelling to Kuwait permission to land at the base of Moron de la Frontera, in Andalusia, southern Spain, the Madrid daily El Pais said Saturday, quoting government sources.

An official from the joint U.S.-Spanish committee made an eleventh hour request to land at least eight Stealth fighters Thursday: "and if it was just one more routine stop," without meeting the terms of bilateral accords, the newspaper said.

A government source, who asked to remain anonymous, was quoted as saying that Washington "acted very badly. Spain is a loyal ally of the United States, but also a sovereign country and it must not be treated like a colony."

Kuwait's government, meanwhile, revived a call for the overthrow of President Saddam, saying that the crisis over Iraq would not end unless the Iraqi leader were ousted.

"We want to see an end to this regime sooner rather than later," Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Saad Nasser Al Sabah told a news conference in Kuwait City.

"This crisis will never be over until Saddam goes," he said. "This cat-and-mouse game has to end."

An Iraqi opposition group, meanwhile, charged that several Iraqi security agencies have shifted their headquarters to northern Iraq.

The Iraqi National Congress (INC) said Major General Fadil Muhammad, head of military intelligence for the eastern sector, had moved his headquarters from the city of Kirkuk to Erbil, the main city in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Major General Walid Nayef Shihb, director of military intelligence for the northern sector, had shifted his headquarters from the town of Mosul to Dohuk, in Iraqi Kurdistan, the INC added in a statement.

The director of the intelligence service and the director of the public security service have moved from Kirkuk to Erbil, the group said.

Kirkuk and Mosul are both located south of the 36th Parallel, outside the flight-exclusion zone for Iraqi aircraft policed by allied warplanes since the 1991 Gulf war.

peace for the Arabs. We must stand up to this," he added.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharrar said Arab states were considering a freeze in relations with Israel because of the slowdown in the peace process. Mr. Sharrar told reporters that a committee was examining a proposal which would be presented to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who chaired the last Arab summit in June.

media with the aim of cleaning up Netanyahu's image after he was accused across the world of blocking the peace process. They are aimed at making him seem to be a man who accepts peace," Mr. Bouez said.

In public speeches before the closed session requested by Mr. Arafat, Arab foreign ministers deplored Israel's new attitude towards peace talks and said it had violated or reneged on agreements made by the previous government.

"Israel bears full responsibility for the setbacks and the stalemate through its attitude of arrogance, obstinacy and provocation," said Algeria's Ahmed Attaf.

"For the principle of land-for-peace, it has substituted the principle of land and peace for Israel in exchange for a fragile

## Queen: Tourism expansion not at the expense of the environment

(Continued from page 12)

Project has empowered a whole community of women, enabling them to continue the education of their children, especially their daughters, and raise their standard of living. The project, which promotes comprehensive participatory community development with a market-oriented approach, has been acclaimed as a model self-sustaining income-generation project for rural women. Since its inception, it has benefited 1,475 women and their families, who have earned JD 6,866 in wages, which constitute 40 per cent of the family income in the Bani Hamida tribe, and sales have reached JD 2,016, 021.

The Bani Hamida project has now been transferred from the care of Save the Children to a new Jordanian NGO (non-governmental organisation) called the Jordan Society for Development (JSD), which is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the financial, cultural, health, social and environmental standard of living of community members through comprehensive development programmes. JSD will focus on launching new projects in the country using the Bani Hamida project as a model and activating new marketing schemes.

Q: Has the report concerning the development of Petra touristically been implemented? Have the utilities and services in Petra been upgraded to meet the desired level of efficiency?

A: Petra provides an excellent example of our ongoing challenge to balance economic

(tourism) priorities with conservation/sustainable development requirements. Private sector involvement in the protection of our national patrimony is becoming increasingly effective. The first initiative was the Petra National Trust (PNT), which was founded in 1989 for the preservation of Petra antiquities, cultural heritage and environment. After a meeting I had with its director general in 1990 to discuss conservation/preservation issues, UNESCO [the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation] sent a multi-disciplinary team composed of specialists in town planning, conservation, site management and tourism, to produce, in cooperation with Jordanian experts, a Petra National Park Management Plan. An organisation of specialists, officials, representatives of different sectors of development and the local community are using the plan as a frame of reference for achieving a responsible balance between preservation concerns and the development of sustainable tourism.

The Higher Committee for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Petra region coordinates the efforts of the public and private sectors in protecting the environment of Petra while strengthening and monitoring private investors and providing necessary infrastructure. The Higher Committee and the PNT meet regularly to set and review guidelines to approve the architectural designs of new hotels and other projects in Petra.

There are diverse projects

that range from the development of Petra's infrastructure to income-generating schemes for women of the region. For example, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Department of Antiquities, in cooperation with the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development are working on a comprehensive site management plan that includes an urban land-use plan, improving and expanding the water network, establishing a central waste-water treatment plant, protection against winter flash floods and ensuring the preservation of the site's vulnerable environmental and cultural resources.

In addition there are literacy and educational programmes for the women of Wadi Musa, set up by local voluntary organisations as well as the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's Jewellery Training Centre at Wadi Musa. In order to create job opportunities for women of the area, the centre began last December by training women from Wadi Musa and Taybeh to produce traditional silver jewellery targeted at the tourist market and to increase the benefits of tourism for the local community. The main thrust of our commitment to Petra and my work with the organisations that I have mentioned is not only to achieve a responsible balance between preservation concerns and the development of sustainable tourism but also to ensure that this balance provides a more equitable distribution of employment, tourism income and other benefits among the local community.

Akaleh.

Asked how the IAF could join the government while it opposes peace and normalisation with Israel, the IAF deputy said:

"In Turkey Islamists joined a government which is not merely in a state of peace with Israel but rather one that has a military cooperation agreement with the Jewish state."

Their awareness and sense of opportunity combined with responsibility for the long-term conservation of this treasure is critical as they and their children are the most direct and natural custodians of Petra.

Q: Your Majesty, as patron of the Jordanian Week which is scheduled to be held in Paris next year, do you feel this event will contribute in marketing Jordan as a tourist destination?

A: The 1997 Jordanian Year in France evolved from discussions over the past few years between Madame Jacques Chirac and myself to introduce Jordanian contemporary art, handicrafts and history to the French and European public. The Jordanian Year will feature a series of cultural events that include an exhibition of traditional Jordanian handicrafts at the famous Grande Magasin Le Printemps as well as a contemporary art exhibition by Jordanian artists that will be held at the prestigious Hotel de Ville in the centre of Paris. The "Archaeology and Science" exhibition, which will be held at L'Institut du Monde Arabe (Institute of the Arab World) in Paris and then in Rome, will include reconstructions of excavations at major archaeological sites in Jordan highlighting excavation and analysis techniques, a reproduction of the Babylonian stele found near Tafleeh, a presentation on the Hellenistic site of Iraq Al-Amir, a 3-D computer simulation of the Temple of Zeus in Jerash, the conservation of the mosaics of the Madaba region and restoration of the renowned Umayyad frescoes of Qasr Amra.

"Any IAF participation would not be aimed at satisfying certain persons but would be within a package deal that would take into consideration the Islamic movement's demands which call for lifting the economic sufferings of the Jordanian people and enhancing the process of democracy and upholding the role of society and its institutions."

## Government said studying option

(Continued from page 1)

Asked whether he would join the Kabariit government, Dr. Akaleh said: "I have often expressed my own view that I support joining the government because each party seeks to assume power in the country in order to implement its own economic, social and political programmes."

"We have never built our stand on personal considerations, whether we disagree or agree with Mr. Kabariit. He is a politician who is capable of holding dialogue and skillful at manoeuvring and can deal with any situation or debate," added Dr.







## Thousands protest DHL Strasbourg hub plan

STRASBOURG, France (R) — At least 12,000 people protested on Saturday against plans by DHL Worldwide Express to set up a cargo hub at Strasbourg airport, saying the flights would keep locals awake at night.

The demonstrators marched through the eastern French city, home of the European Parliament, led by a car topped by a megaphone that blared a recording of a plane taking off.

"No to night flights," a banner said. Organisers said up to 20,000 people took part, demanding that Strasbourg airport be closed from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Police said 12,000 attended.

DHL says it has not given up hopes of opening its proposed Rhine Valley regional air cargo hub at Strasbourg-Entzheim. A report this week by three leading local officials including mayor Catherine Trautmann said it was unacceptable.

"No compromise is possible," said Pierre Chambon, a university professor at Saturday's march who heads one of the anti-DHL groups. "We will act until the project is completely abandoned."

The final decision is up to the French Civil Aviation Authority. The project has won strong support from the Strasbourg Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses

despite opposition from environmentalists and residents.

The express distribution group had planned initially one or two nightly flights from Strasbourg using Convair and Electra aircraft in late 1996, rising to seven a night next year.

The flights would link Strasbourg with DHL's European hub at Brussels and regional centres at Britain's east Midlands, Copenhagen, Nuremberg, Cologne, Bergamo and Vienna.

Deutsche Lufthansa AG and Japan Airlines Co Ltd each hold a 25 per cent stake in DHL.

## Abu Dhabi set to launch world's biggest Islamic bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi is set to launch the world's biggest Islamic bank to take advantage of the growing regional demand for such financial institutions, bankers said Saturday.

The capital of the bank, to be based in Abu Dhabi, will be higher than the capital of any other bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), they said.

The Abu Dhabi government has almost completed procedures for the creation of the bank, which will be partially owned by the private sector.

"So far we do not have enough information about the bank's capital, its statute and the date of its opening. But a large part of its capital will be raised through public

subscription in the UAE," a local bank manager said.

It will be the second Islamic bank in the UAE after the Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB), the biggest Islamic bank in the world in terms of paid up capital, which stood at 420 million dirhams (\$114.4 million) at the end of 1995.

Bankers said the new unit would be highly feasible as there is strong demand for Islamic bank services in the UAE and other conservative Gulf states.

Quoting unidentified officials, the UAE economic weekly Emirates Today said the bank's majority shareholders included the Abu Dhabi government and local businessmen. The remaining shares will be floated in the local market.

"An emiri decree setting

up the bank and defining its statute, activities and capital is expected to be issued shortly," the magazine said.

The creation of the bank follows the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in 1991 for allegations of massive fraud.

Abu Dhabi, the main oil producer in the UAE, owned around 77 per cent of BCCI, which was one of the biggest monetary establishments in the world. The emirate has offered \$1.8 billion in compensation for BCCI creditors.

"Despite the large number of banks in the UAE, the new Islamic bank will be a successful venture as there are many clients for such units," a UAE banker said.

"This was evident in the

operations of DIB over the past decade."

Islamic banks do not deal in interest which is prohibited by Islam as usury. But they charge a percentage of the profits on the project they finance.

Apart from DIB, the UAE has 46 commercial banks, with assets of around 170 billion dirhams (\$46.3 billion).

Most of them have reported record profits over the past few years due to a boom in the construction and trade sectors, the main beneficiaries of bank credits.

Dealers said they expected the floated capital of the new Islamic bank to be quickly oversubscribed given the large domestic liquidity and investors' confidence in enterprises with government involvement.

"There is no doubt that the new share issue will give a strong boost to the stock market, which has suffered from a lack of share floatations over the past 10 years," said Zuhair Kaswani, a leading UAE stockbroker.

"I think the capital to be owned by the private sector would be oversubscribed in a short period of time as the market is awash with liquidity and there is strong confidence in government ventures."

Dealers and bankers said they expected 55 per cent of the new bank's paid-up capital to be put for public subscription. The rest could be owned by the government and wealthy sheikhs and businessmen.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CHARTER AMMAN - COMMERCIAL									
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179									
ORGANISED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 14/09/1996									
LAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	S / E	DIY.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE THAWAD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
250,000	205,000	JORD. BANK	13.8	1.42	40	3540	32210	244.00	247.00
1,510	1,560	JORD. BANK	65.7	0.00	2	1500	1500	.99	1.00
2,700	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.1	6.30	1	700	1547	2.21	2.21
3,660	2,250	THE HOUSING BK.	15.3	2.78	43	22230	16437	6.88	6.97
1,040	2,600	JORD. BANK	19.3	0.00	3	1455	3885	2.70	2.67
1,340	1,800	JORD. BANK	5.7	7.37	21	17423	16402	.93	.85
4,180	3,300	JORD. BANK	19.3	0.00	3	1455	3885	2.70	2.67
3,950	1,810	ORION BK. (SAV. INV.)	7	0.00	2	350	568	1.61	1.61
1,430	2,250	RETAIL BANK (NETS)	1.4	6.73	2	800	1115	1.26	1.23
1,090	200	AMMAN BANK	9	0.00	3	11900	3213	.26	.27
1,440	1,000	PHILADELPHIA BK.	9	0.00	18	9028	12150	1.20	1.24
MARK TOTALS									
3,220	2,470	GENERAL AMAR INVR.	74.8	0.00	8	5010	11774	2.47	2.35
4,500	4,000	JERUSALEM INVR.	12.2	4.44	2	33	238	4.50	4.30
2,910	2,150	JUR. FRENCH INVR.	6.2	9.17	2	2380	4908	2.18	2.18
2,660	1,900	HOLY LAND INVR.	5.3	0.00	1	105	205	2.10	2.10
INSURANCE MARKET TOTALS									
1,900	1,450	JORD. BANK	11.4	7.22	44	62307	101097	1.60	1.54
9,250	2,050	JORD. BANK	18.8	1.88	4	3634	84294	0.76	.76
2,100	2,090	JORD. BANK	9.9	0.00	2	1500	1500	.99	1.00
1,230	1,000	JORD. BANK	9	0.00	50	28800	37623	1.26	1.26
1,160	1,680	REAL ESTATE INV.	70.2	3.50	8	877	887	.90	.90
3,400	3,090	JORD. BANK	13.9	5.68	34	15899	15899	3.48	3.52
1,380	1,950	JORD. BANK	9	0.00	64	44050	51695	1.13	1.19
2,480	1,750	UNION BANK	5.8	5.18	5	1710	3000	1.00	1.00
1,200	1,680	UNION BANK	5	0.00	2	3000	3000	1.00	1.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS									
26,620	18,950	JORD. BANK	16.2	3.74	1	20	401	21.10	20.05
3,770	2,050	JORD. BANK	19.0	0.00	83	3728	12666	3.26	3.32
1,850	2,710	JORD. BANK	78.7	0.00	11	1584	4852	3.20	3.13
5,980	4,780	AMAR BANK	17.0	3.87	12	10350	87507	5.30	5.60
10,550	8,720	JORD. BANK	9.4	8.66	12	2366	22023	9.28	9.30
1,190	1,150	WOLLEY INDUSTRIES	60.2	0.00	3	150	213	1.40	1.42
3,750	1,680	INDUSTRIAL CORP. AMR.	31.6	0.00	11	3800	8930	2.24	2.45
9,010	3,100	AMAR BANK	30.4	3.38	9	2580	3357	1.74	2.10
6,450	5,600	JORD. BANK	7.6	4.10	6	799	4867	6.70	6.10
2,600	2,050	JORD. BANK	13.2	0.00	4	199	618	2.15	2.16
4,050	3,100	JORD. BANK	17.4	2.84	1	120	512	3.40	3.40
2,310	1,400	JORD. BANK	13.0	0.00	1	836	1400	1.44	1.44
8,050	4,250	DAR ALDIN	13.7	0.00	17	8850	43192	4.66	5.00
5,800	1,320	AMAR BANK	8.8	8.47	4	1000	121192	.71	.71
1,740	1,450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	46	104850	121192	.71	.71
1,500	1,100	JORD. BANK	8.7	0.00	9	2500	3150	1.70	1.70
1,170	1,450	NATIONAL INDS.	10.4	8.97	7	10000	7000	.70	.70
1,940	1,040	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	2	500	960	1.32	1.12
3,550	2,280	UNION BANK	11.0	0.00	7	1150	1652	1.68	2.10
8,380	4,330	JORD. BANK	17.7	2.02	1	200	960	4.85	4.85
4,360	2,650	KHAY. CABLE WIRE. INVR.	16.2	0.00	8	1388	3706	2.80	2.66
2,130	1,080	AMAR BANK	27.7	0.00	1	1050	1623	1.68	1.40
3,280	1,680	UNION BANK	5.2	11.63	12	3850	6623	1.70	1.72
2,100	1,140	JORD. BANK	17.2	0.00	25	86700	120804	1.37	1.37
1,700	950	JORD. BANK	28.6	0.00	40	10598	2419	.38	.38
2,460	1,750	EL - SAY WAREHOUSE	7	0.00	6	41150	78198	1.85	1.91
1,490	1,090	UNION BANK	27.1	0.00	26	27803	20088	1.13	1.15
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88	INDEX: 112.88
GRAND TOTAL	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07	INDEX: 149.07
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 14/09/1996									
1,800	1,610	JORD. BANK	16.5	0.00	1	600	372	.62	.62
950	1,440	REAL. CORP. AMR.	9	0.00	2	2000	960	.96	.96
960	700	ORION INV. 501	79.4	0.00	49	121480	39422	.80	.83
1,200	1,510	AMAR BANK	17.0	0.00	18	20100	10314	.84	.84
4,900	3,100	AMAR BANK	10	0.00	10	9300	6520	.65	.65
1,740	1,370	NATL. CABLE WIRE. INVR.	16.2	0.00	8	10790	12368	1.42	1.42
1,100	1,580	NATL. CABLE WIRE. INVR.	16.2	0.00	37	48507	76336	.57	.58
1,080	1,770	JORD. BANK	10.0	0.00	7	10790	16623	.31	.30
840	430	AMAR BANK	27.7	0.00	15	10230	5448	.52	.53
1,890	1,620	KHAY. CABLE WIRE. INVR.	16.2	0.00	1	3000	2000	.66	.66
1,640	1,100	UNION BANK	17.2	0.00	4	3400	3150	1.17	1.18
850	630	NATL. CABLE WIRE. INVR.	16.2	0.00	4	4000	1120	.64	.63
1,460	1,440	INDS. INVR.	32.0	0.00	16	17850	8974	.80	.82
1,460	1,770	JORD. BANK	10.0	0.00	9	4100	3151	.82	.81
730	410	J. TRENKLE MANUF.	9	0.00	3	250	100	.42	.40
1,500	1,530	KHAY. CABLE WIRE. INVR.	16.2	0.00	9	4300	2182	.78	.81
2,800	3,200	AMAR BANK	10.1	6.76	1	500	1850	3.90	3.70
GRAND TOTAL									
204	279207	204	279207	204	279207	204	279207	204	279207

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLF	FRF
US Dollar	1.5143	0.8428	1.2435	110.45	1.3684	1628.40	1.8989	5.1555	
DE Mark	0.6604		0.4363	0.8211	0.5041	0.00977	0.00297	0.0044	
GB Sterling	1.5557	1.5557		1.9300	171.60	2.1304	2378.28	2.6398	8.0204
CH Franc	0.8062	1.2173	0.5167		88.80	1.1008	1228.02	1.3858	4.4443
JP Yen	0.0091	1.3704	0.5816	1.253		1.2393	13.84	153.57	4.6856
CA Dollar	0.7302	1.0338	0.4696	0.3082	1.24		1115.32	1.2348	3.7667
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9885	0.4200	0.0813	1388.77	0.8948		11.08	3.3887
NL Guilder	0.5893	89.20	0.3788	73.27	65.04	0.8067	900.92		3.0369
FR Franc	0.1840	0.2937	0.1246	24.1152	21.40	0.2656	32.91	32.9100	

Energy									
Oil	Last	Previous							
Brent	23.85	24.05							
W. Texas	24.45	24.30							
Bony	23.85	24.05							
Dubai	21.57	21.31							
UL Gas	216.00	216.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
SA Riyal	0.2655	0.4038	0.17138	0.33168	29.4629				
AE Dirham	0.2722	0.41241	0.17502	0.33782	30.0879				
KW Dinar	3.3322	5.04798	2.14179	4.14584	368.188				
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.61788	0.25903	0.29924	281.083				
CY Pound	2.1382	3.2348	1.373	2.6564	235.943				

## Popov plans comeback, aims for 2000 Olympics

PARIS (R) — Double Olympic champion Alexander Popov, stabbed in a Moscow street last month, said he would return to swimming in October and race at the 2000 Sydney Games.

"I'm convinced I'll swim again at the Sydney Games," Popov said in an interview published Friday.

"I can't say yet whether I'll win because it's too early. There are four years to go, but I'll give it everything," he told the French sports daily *L'Equipe* in an interview in Volgograd.

Popov, knifed in the abdomen by a watermelon salesman during an argument on an August night in Moscow, underwent a delicate operation lasting more than two hours then spent a couple of weeks of convalescence in a Moscow hospital.

In Volgograd, where he developed into a world class swimmer, Popov was presented with a cheque and the keys to a car and an apartment for his Atlanta Games feat as the first man to retain both the 50 and 100 metres freestyle during a ceremony to honour the city's Olympic medal winners.

Popov, who now trains in Australia and plans to return there next month after resting in Volgograd and his home town of Sverdlovsk, said it would take him at least six months to become competitive again but "I'll get there".

His surgeon said the 24-year-old Popov, who has lost more than five kilos, would make a complete recovery and be able to lead a normal life, but it was too soon to say how the attack may have affected his future as a competitive swimmer.

Popov said his first question on coming round from the anaesthetic was whether he would swim again and that it was very important for him to hear that he would.

He joked that he might even be back for the world championships in Seville in a year's time.

Popov dismissed suggestions he might turn his back on Russia and take out Australian citizenship, saying the men who attacked him were not Russian.

"They (Australia) will never get me. I will still swim for Russia and swim fast."

## Yankees, Orioles win, New York up 3-1/2 games

TORONTO (R) — Andy Pettitte allowed seven hits over 7-2/3 strong innings and Tim Lincecum hit a two-run double as the New York Yankees defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 for their fourth straight win on Friday.

Pettitte (21-8) allowed an earned run, walked one and struck out six in joining Atlanta's John Smoltz as the only 21-game winners in baseball.

The Yankees maintained a 3-1/2-game lead over second-place Baltimore in the American League East.

In Detroit, Rafael Palmeiro, Bobby Bonilla and Brady Anderson homered to power the wild card-leading Baltimore Orioles to a 7-4 victory over the Detroit Tigers, who set a Major League record for home runs allowed in a season.

Baltimore increased its Major League-leading homer total to 237, three shy of the single-season record held by the 1961 New York Yankees.

In Boston, Roger Clemens continued his dominance of the White Sox at Fenway Park and Nomar Garciaparra added a two-run triple as Boston defeated Chicago 9-5 in a key American League wild card matchup.

The win allows the Red Sox to remain five games behind the Baltimore Orioles in the race for the wild card spot. Chicago, which dropped 2-of-3 to Baltimore earlier this week, fell to 1-1/2 games behind the Orioles.

Clemens (9-12) has won six straight decisions at home against the White Sox.

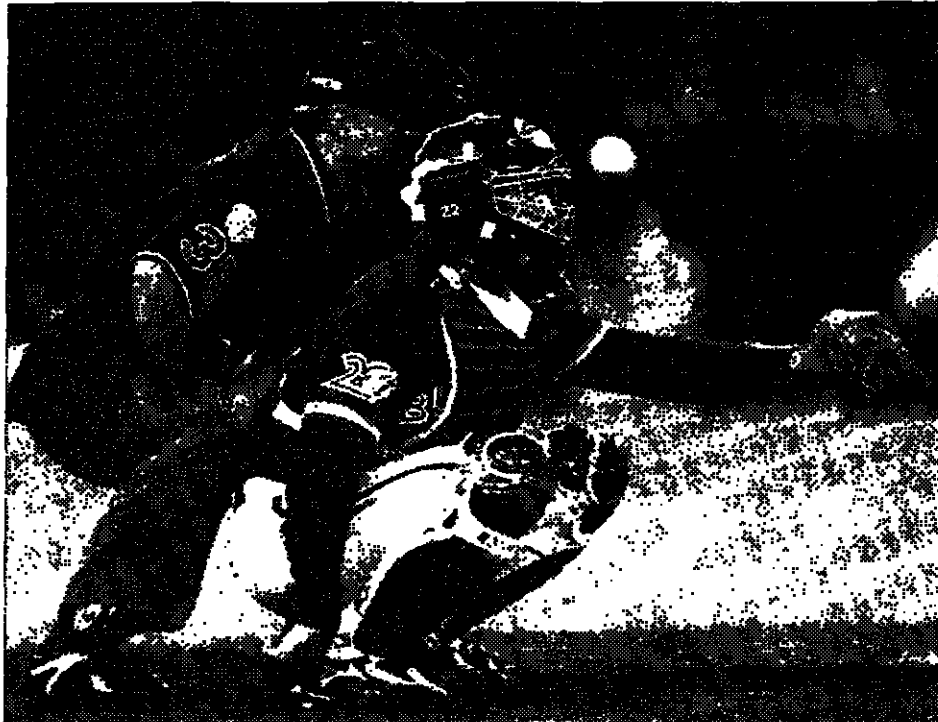
In Kansas City, Tim Lincecum scattered 10 hits over seven innings and Kevin Young, Joe Vitello and David Howard each drove in two runs as the Kansas City Royals defeated the California Angels 8-2 in a matchup of Cellar-Dwellers.

Belcher (14-9) allowed two runs, walked one and struck out four for the win.

At Minnesota, Ken Griffey Junior, Dan Wilson and Mark Whiten accounted for 10 runs with home runs as the Seattle Mariners rocked the Minnesota Twins 13-7.

Seattle remained four games behind the Orioles in the chase for the American League wild-card berth.

"We came back, they jumped out ahead and we came back," Mariners manager Lou Piniella said. "Junior (Griffey) got us right back into the ballgame with a three-run homer and then Wilson hit his three-run homer and then Whiten ... That ball went over the



Toronto Blue Jays' catcher Charlie O'Brien closes his eyes as the ball passes close to his new mask on a foul tip off the bat of New York Yankees' Cecil Fielder during third inning action in Toronto. Looking very similar to an ice hockey goalie's mask, O'Brien wore the mask for the first time since its approval by the league September 12. Behind is homeplate umpire Ed Hickox (Reuters photo)

speaker. That ball was really hit. I don't know if I've ever seen one hit further, but I know I've never seen one hit that high."

At Texas, Jose Valentin homered to snap a tie in the sixth inning as the Milwaukee Brewers defeated the Texas Rangers 6-3, giving them three straight losses for the first time in more than a month.

With one out in the sixth, Valentin hit an 0-2 pitch from Bobby Witt (15-10) over the centre-field fence for his 23rd homer, giving the Brewers a 4-3 edge.

In Cleveland, the game between the Oakland Athletics and Cleveland Indians was postponed due to rain at Jacobs field and will be made up a part of a doubleheader on September 14th.

### Cardinals beat Dodgers

Five pitchers combined on a five-hitter and pinch-runner Miguel Mejia scored the go-ahead run from second on a sacrifice bunt in the top of the ninth inning as the St. Louis Cardinals blanked the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-0 for their 11th win in 14 games on Friday.

Starter Todd Stottlemyre gave up two hits before he was struck below the right knee by a line drive off the bat of Todd Hollandsworth in the sixth. Stottlemyre was taken to a Los Angeles-area hospital for precautionary X-rays.

St. Louis regained a 2 1/2-game lead over second-place

Houston in the National League Central.

In Chicago, Steve Trachsel allowed two runs in seven innings and Dave Magadan had a two-run double in the first inning as the Chicago Cubs managed a 4-2 win over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Chicago won for the fourth time in five games.

Trachsel (12-8) allowed eight hits and no walks with four strikeouts for his first win in five starts. The fourth inning with an undisclosed ailment. Mike Winter, who started the game umpiring second, took over behind the plate as the game finished with three umpires.

At Colorado, Dante Bichette hit his 30th homer to become the 16th player in baseball history to reach the 30-30 milestone and the Colorado Rockies became the first team to have four 30-homer-run hitters in consecutive seasons as they defeated the Houston Astros 6-3.

Bichette, who has 30 stolen bases, homered off Astros starter Shane Reynolds in the sixth inning, knotting the game 3-3. He joins teammates Andres Galarraga, Ellis Burks and Vinny Castilla, who had previously reached the 30-homer mark.

In Montreal, Rondell White's RBI single snapped a sixth-inning tie and Pedro Martinez allowed one earned run over 6-2/3 innings as the Montreal Expos edged the Florida Marlins 3-2.

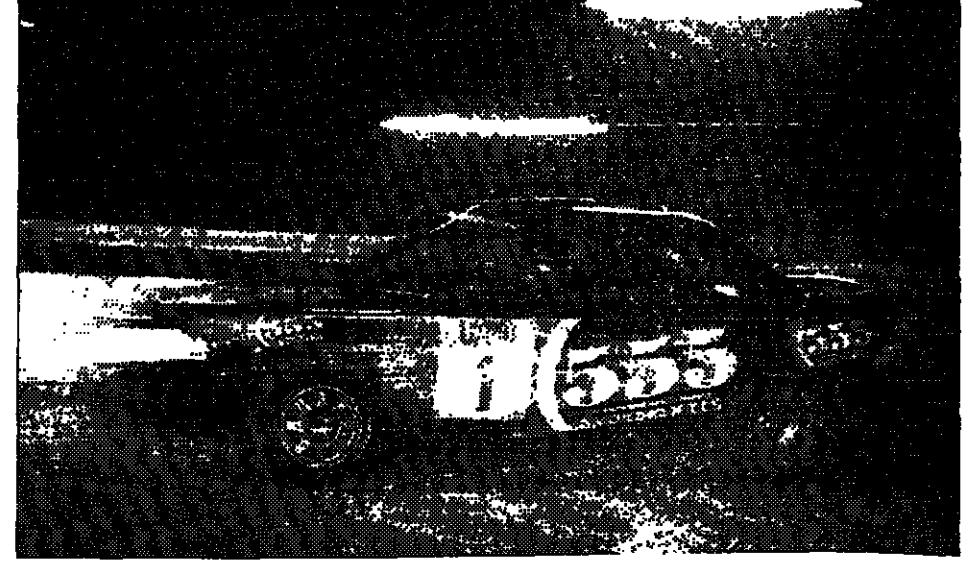
Henry Rodriguez and Shane Andrews homered for

## Spaniard Sainz leads Australian Rally

PERTH (R) — Spaniard Carlos Sainz, driving a Ford, edged into the lead after Friday's first stage of the rally of Australia, the seventh round of the World Championship.

Twice former world champion Sainz led by just one second from a pack including defending champion Colin McRae, in a Subaru, and world championship leader Tommi Makinen of Finland, driving a Mitsubishi, after the opening stage in Perth's Langley Park.

The rally continues on Saturday and heads south from Perth for 10 stages totalling 182 km. The 1,560-km race finishes on Monday.



Colin McRae of Britain sprints his Subaru during the first stage of the Rally of Australia, the seventh round of the World Championship. Twice former world champion Carlos Sainz led by just one second from a pack including defending champion Colin McRae, in a Subaru, and world championship leader Tommi Makinen of Finland, driving a Mitsubishi, after the opening stage in Perth's Langley Park (Reuters photo)

## Romario dropped again by Valencia

VALENCIA (AFP) — Brazil's World Cup star Romario marched out of training here on Friday after being dropped for the second time in a week by Valencia.

Coach Luis Aragones decided to stay with the team which beat Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup in midweek for Sunday's league game at Real Zaragoza.

Romario, who had threatened to quit if he was not selected, refused to talk after this second blow to his pride.

Valencia paid a total of five million dollars, to Flamengo of Brazil and his former Spanish club Barcelona, for Romario.

## Borg again at special home town gala day

STOCKHOLM (R) — Bjorn Borg, Sweden's most successful tennis player, is to make a brief return to the sport in "Borg day" at his home town of Sodertelja in central Sweden, organisers said Friday.

The five-times Wimbledon champion, who retired from centre court at the age of 27 after being beaten by American John McEnroe, will play against fellow Swede, 25-year-old Mats Wilander, on October 5.

The gala day, called "Bjorn is back in town", was organised by his hometown to honour the tennis player who turned 40 in June and still holds the record for successive Wimbledon wins.

"The gala is a kind of thanks to Bjorn for the publicity he's given this city and the club during all these years," said Ulf Schramm, chairman of Sodertelja tennis club.

## Sacchi accuses Italy's press of 'summary justice'

ROME (R) — Arrigo Sacchi accused Italy's media on Friday of "summary justice" and making him a scapegoat for his side's humiliating early elimination from the European championship in June.

Sacchi, in his first public comments in Italy since his team's demise in the group stage, admitted he had made a few mistakes but blasted his fiercest critics.

"Most of the criticisms that followed the championship were well taken," he said.

"But not the summary justice in the media that was aimed at turning me into a scapegoat and which failed to point out the positive things we showed in England," Sacchi told a news conference at Rome's Olympic stadium.

"When a team wins, it's everybody's merit: the players, the coach, the organisation," he said.

"And when a team loses, it's everybody's fault." The Italian media had called for Sacchi's head after the Euro 96 debacle. He was lambasted for not including key players in his starting line-up against eventual finalists the Czech Republic, a match the Italians lost.

But he has managed to

weather the summer storm, aided by an indissoluble two-year contract he signed just before Euro 96 and a power vacuum within Italy's National Soccer Federation.

Last month Raffaele Pagnozzi was named "extraordinary commissioner" of the federation after Italy's clubs failed to find a replacement for Antonio Matarrese, who resigned after the poor showing in England in June.

Newspapers have reported that Pagnozzi had no choice but to retain Sacchi for at least the remainder of 1996. The Italians play world cup qualifiers against Moldova and Georgia next month.

Barring Italy failing to qualify, Sacchi is likely to stay on until the end of his multi-million dollar contract which includes the 1998 World Cup in France.

Asked if the absence of midfielder Roberto di Matteo and strikers Gianfranco Zola and Pierluigi Casiraghi contributed to Italy's defeat against the Czechs, Sacchi said: "I'm not sure we would have won if they had started."

He said his biggest error was not to have noticed a drop in his players' con-

centration after Italy beat Russia 2-1 in their first game.

"It was a serious error because we showed up on the pitch with a lack of determination and drive. To be excellent you have to be motivated: you can't think you have already reached your goal."

"Nevertheless, I think Italy were inferior to no-one in terms of the quality of our game. And I believe we played better than Germany, even if we managed no more than a 'draw'."

Italy's 0-0 draw with Germany sealed their exit from the tournament.

Sacchi, who led Italy to the 1994 World Cup final where they lost to Brazil on penalties, said he would recall most of the players he took to England for next month's qualifiers but would not mention specific names.

"We are following everybody, including those who have moved abroad," he said, referring to Stalwarts di Matteo and Fabrizio Ravanelli who moved to English clubs over the summer.

## Manchester United fans want UEFA action

MANCHESTER (R) — Manchester United fans want action from UEFA after claiming they were subjected to violent treatment during Wednesday's European Cup match against Juventus in Turin.

The English club's independent supporters association intend to compile a dossier of fans' experiences after allegations of baton and tear gas attacks by police. The violent incidents were said to have occurred in the city centre and outside the stadium.

Supporters also claim they were searched before going into the ground and personal items such as loose change, keys and lighters were confiscated.

The association's chairman Johnny Flecks said that flares were directed into the united section of the stadium by Juventus fans and supporters were lucky to escape serious injury.

"We want the football authorities to launch an immediate investigation to

ensure that similar events don't happen again during future European visits this season," said Flecks.

"We are compiling a dossier to give to UEFA and the (English) Football Association and want supporters who were involved in incidents or witnessed anything unpleasant to send us details."

"Lighted flares were thrown into the United section by Juventus fans and I understand that UEFA has specifically banned the use of fireworks within stadiums. The punishment apparently is ground closure."

"I would like to see what happens in this instance because flares were being set off all night."

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144	CINEMA TEL: 699238	CINEMA TEL: 677420	Ammoun Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD		
	Ben Kingsley... in <b>SPECIES</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki...in <b>Naser 56</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams ...in <b>ERASER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Jim Carrey ... in <b>Dumb and Dumber</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: Mahmoud Salmeh & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m	PRESENTS <b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b> Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155



## I'm an alcoholic, admits England captain Adams

LONDON (AFP) — England Euro 96 captain Tony Adams has told his Arsenal team-mates he is an alcoholic, according to press reports here on Saturday.

Adams, who has won 45 England caps, is reported to have made his confession at a meeting of the players called by Pat Rice, who was appointed new caretaker manager at the troubled London Club on Friday.

The inspirational central defender lapsed into his drink crisis after England's dramatic semi-final penalty shoot-out defeat to Germany in the Euro 96 championships in June.

It was then that the 29-year-old Adams had his first drink, ending a period of abstinence which had started at the end of February when he first faced up to the fact that he had a serious drink problem.

One team mate in the England squad said: "For the Euro championships we basically had to stick Tony together with elastoplast and put him out on the pitch. His bravery was awesome."

Adams, who has not played this season because of a reported knee injury, told players he hoped for the same support that Arsenal striker Paul Merson received when he admitted he was addicted to drink, drugs and gambling in November 1994.

David Davies, director of public affairs at the Football Association (FA) offered Adams the FA's help.

Davies said: "Obviously, we are deeply concerned about this story. Tony Adams can be assured of our total support in sorting out any problems he has."

"His role as England captain during Euro 96 has been widely and rightly recognised as considerable."

Adams' team mates were well aware of his problems with drink.

In December 1990 he was jailed for four months for drink-driving following a crash.

Three years later he needed 29 stitches in his head after falling down drunk at a nightclub.

Later that year, he was branded a job after being involved in drunken antics at an Essex pizza restaurant with teammate Ray Parlour.

Adams' wife Jane has been in rehabilitation for a drugs problem and it has been reported recently that he is seeking a divorce. The couple have three children.

But his record on the pitch has been impressive, leading Arsenal to two league championships, two league cup victories, an FA cup final triumph and success in the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Arsenal are now facing a multitude of problems. They are still awaiting the arrival of their new manager, Arsene Wenger, from Japanese Club Grampus 8 and caretaker-manager Stewart Houston departed the club on Friday.

Players are reported to be unsettled and on Tuesday the club were beaten 3-2 at home in the UEFA cup first round first leg by German side Borussia Moenchengladbach.

## Sydney launches 2000 Olympic logo

SYDNEY (R) — Sydney launched the logo for the 2000 Olympics on national television on Saturday as Games organisers predicted an A\$1.0 billion (US\$800 million) merchandising bonanza over the next four years.

The logo, featuring at its centre three Aboriginal boomerang shapes joined together in a stylised image of an athlete, was unveiled to a television audience as part of a Sydney harbour-side ceremony attended by Prime Minister John Howard.

The Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) has predicted it will earn A\$100 million in copyright fees and royalties from domestic and international merchandising.

Products bearing the new logo will be available for sale from January 1, 1997. Major sponsors will also be able to use the logo from that date, the official start of the four-year Sydney Olympiad.

"The logo is part of a very substantial marketing programme which will deliver about A\$1.0 billion in turnover. About A\$100 million will go to SOCOG," SOCOG Marketing Director John Moore said.

The design also features a stylised outline of the Sydney opera house, the central feature of the logo used by the city in its bid for the Games.

Its principal colours are blue, red and yellow to represent the ocean and Australia's arid interior.



Pictured is the logo for Sydney's 2000 Olympic Games, which was launched in Sydney September 14, and features at its centre three Aboriginal boomerang shapes joined together in a stylised image of an athlete. Games organisers expect to earn A\$100 million (US\$80 million) in royalties over the next four years from domestic and international merchandising (Reuters photo)

"We wanted the logo to bring in our culture, our country and our background," SOCOG Chief Executive Mal Hemmerling said.

"It was also very important to us that the athlete should have centre place and that the athlete should be moving forward towards the new millennium," Hemmerling said.

A steel sculpture of the logo design has been erected next to the water at Darling Harbour in the city.

The use of the boomerang symbol, a curved throwing stick which Aborigines traditionally used for hunting, was welcomed by Aboriginal leaders, who are campaigning for land rights and social equality.

Aborigines, numbering 300,000 among Australia's 18 million population, are the nation's most disadvantaged group. Their life expectancy is 17 to 20 years less than white Australians, and have higher rates of unemployment and health problems.

Some Aboriginal leaders have threatened to disrupt the 2000 Games as a way of protesting against their people's plight.

SOCOG has estimated it will spend A\$1.87 billion on running the Games. The New South Wales state government, as underwriter, is committed to spend A\$1.9 billion on infrastructure.



Italian Gianni Bugno leads the pack as cyclists ride up the Alto de Ojen second-category port during the seventh stage of the Tour of Spain cycling race between Malaga and Marbella. Italian Fabio Baldato won the stage and retained the overall leader's yellow jersey (Reuters photo)

## Tour of Spain

### Baldato wins 2nd consecutive stage

MARBELLA (AFP) — Fabio Baldato won the seventh stage of the tour of Spain here on Friday, his second consecutive victory, to keep him on top of the overall standings.

Baldato just headed fellow Italian Giovanni Lombardi with Britain's Olympic bronze medalist Maximilian Sciandri in third.

The Italian sprint star increased his lead to 22 seconds over France's Laurent Jalabert in this 171km stretch from Malaga to Marbella — the first day with real climbs. Jalabert finished fourth in the day's sprint.

Despite the mountainous

section around Marbella, the pack finished more-or-less together allowing Baldato, again well-supported by his team-mates, to cross the line first.

Early on in the stage, Switzerland's Alex Zülle, a teammate of Jalabert, was prominent among four riders who broke away, but it only lasted about 30km.

Then a little later, Italian's first stage winner Biagio Conte and compatriot Denis Zanette attacked for the longest breakaway of the day — they were caught just 20km from the line.

Baldato, who won the final stage of the Tour de

France, retold the final moments of the race.

"At the end of the stage, Casagrande attacked but I was able to respond quickly despite being tired. At 200m from the line, Sciandri made his move and I really thought he was going to win, but I could see he was very tired and that's why I made such an effort to win," he said.

Saturday's eighth stage is one of the longest in the race at 220km between Marbella and Jerez de la Frontera. It has two third category climbs — at Alto de Palmones and Alto de Medina-Sidonia.

STUTTGART (R) — A German court Friday lifted a detention order on tennis star Steffi Graf's father Peter, currently on trial for tax evasion, but an appeal kept him in jail for the time being.

Peter Graf's lawyer Kurt Himmelsbach said prosecutors in the town of Mannheim had appealed against the city court's decision to free him on bail, and a high court in Karlsruhe would have to make a final ruling.

This was unlikely to happen on Friday, Himmelsbach declined to say at what level bail had been set.

The multi-millionaire tennis star herself is still under investigation in the affair, but she said prosecutors were considering dropping the inquiry in return for a fine.

Peter Graf, 58, has been in jail in the southwestern town of Mannheim since August 1995.

He is accused, together with family tax adviser Joachim Eckardt, of evading 19 million marks (\$12.5 million) of taxes on his daughter's income between 1989 and 1993, and could face up to 10 years in jail if convicted. Eckardt also stands to be freed on bail if the Karlsruhe court rules in his favour.

At the trial, which began last week, Graf said politicians and tax authorities had led him to believe they approved of his methods of reducing tax on his millionaire daughter's earnings.

Eckardt's lawyers told the court the world number one tennis player, who won the latest of her 21 Grand



Steffi Graf

Slam titles at the U.S. Open in New York last week as the trial was beginning, had been informed of the details of her father's tax schemes.

In an interview with the mass-circulation daily Bild Friday, she called this accusation "old hat" and said it was based on second-hand information.

"He (Eckardt) said himself he never informed me about tax matters — particularly not of such a dubious or controversial nature," she said.

She said she had never been told of the details of what was happening to her

earnings — believed to have reached over 100 million marks (\$66 million) in total.

The player has always said she left her financial affairs in the hands of her father, a former used-car salesman who coached her and acted as mentor from the time she was four years old.

Graf said prosecutors had now come to the same conclusion.

"That's why they suggested dropping the case

against me in return for payment of a fine," she said.

"The position now is that the authorities will wait for the outcome of the trial against my father and Eckardt, and then they will again discuss dropping the investigation."

She said she had nothing to fear from the trial. "I am entirely convinced that no details can emerge in the trial which could suggest any guilt on my part because I have nothing to reproach myself for. After the trial there will hopefully be no doubts about my role in the matter," she said.

Graf announced she was now moving control of all her financial affairs to a new company and new manager in the family's home town of Brühl.

"After my career finishes I aim with my company to become active in sports marketing. I'm thinking of managing other athletes and organising events," she said.

## JOB OPPORTUNITY PHYSIOTHERAPIST & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

A Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapist are required to work for a community-based rehabilitation program under the supervision of Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped and in co-operation with the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf and other organisations in Jordan.

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P.O. Box 15, SALT.

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N.B. The job requires a good deal of travelling within the Kingdom. Female applicants are most welcome.

Applications are accepted until September 28, 1996.

## MISSING



Mrs. "Norma Quintos Unay", a Filipino national with passport No. AA877994, left her employer's house on Sunday, September 1st, 1996 and since went missing.

Any one who helps her hide away can face penalty under the law. Any person who knows about her should contact: Tel.: 667937

## LOST DUTCH RESIDENCY ID PLASTIC MAGNETIC

In the name of Shahed Fahed Osama Hilmi, No. 04074443 2201009324, valid until 05-07-2000. If found please deliver to the nearest police station or contact at: Tel. # 699353 A reward will be granted.

Jordan Times  
Tel:  
69934 684311

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## Iran ready to help Turkey fight rebels

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Sunday that Tehran was ready to help Turkey combat rebel Turkish Kurds in an effort to maintain security in their border areas.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, who met with Mr. Velayati on Saturday, said Tehran should take steps to prevent the Kurdish guerrillas from infiltrating into Turkey from Iran, otherwise Turkey would have to take measures by itself.

"We wish to see terrorism defeated," the Anatolia news agency quoted Mr. Velayati as saying before his departure from Ankara.

The Turkish government also refers to the Turkish Kurdish war for autonomy in the southeast as "terrorism."

But there was no mention of what kind of cooperation the two sides had in mind.

Earlier in the day, Anatolia reported that Turkish soldiers killed 36 Kurds in the south-east province of Van, where the rebels, infiltrating from Iran, have attacked Turkish border posts.

The agency, quoting unnamed military sources, said the rebels were killed Saturday in a day-long offensive in the province which borders Iran. There were no reports of government casualties.

allies. The rebels, who are seeking an autonomous state, stage hit-and-run attacks from their bases in neighbouring Iran and Iraq.

More than 20,000 people have been killed in the fighting since 1984. Eighteen Turkish soldiers were killed in the past week in two separate attacks on military stations by rebels reported to have infiltrated from Iran.

"Iran cannot claim to be a friend and brother, and then allow our soldiers to be killed on the border every day," Mrs. Ciller told reporters Sunday. "Friendship has its responsibilities."

Mr. Velayati came to Turkey to attend a meeting of 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation, which aims to improve regional cooperation among Muslim countries.

Iranian authorities deny that Turkish Kurds operate from bases in Iran along the Turkish border.

But Turkish officials maintain there has been a rise in Kurdish attacks originating from the Iranian side of the border.

The rebels are members of the Kurdish Labour Party fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey.

## First woman delegate to league pledges to work for Arab unity

CAIRO (AFP) — The first woman delegate to the Arab League, Libyan Ambassador Salma Ahmad Rashed, pledged to help forge Arab unity as she took up her new job in the all-male universe of the pan-Arab organisation.

"My priorities will be to promote the Libyan project to create a union of Arab states and the Palestinian cause," Ms. Rashed said Friday after presenting her letter of credentials to Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid.

Never before had a woman taken a seat on the pan-Arab organisation since its creation in 1945 until Libya appointed Ms. Rashed to the post of ambassador to the 22-member league.

Ms. Rashed, who has served in a number of Libyan government posts, replaced Ibrahim Al Bashari, who has been named undersecretary of state for foreign affairs.

At the Arab summit, which was held in Cairo in June, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi called for the creation of a union of Arab states.

His proposal figured on a 46-point agenda of an ordinary ministerial conference of Arab League foreign ministers which started its work Saturday here. Ms. Rashed attended the

meeting. Calm and smiling, Ms. Rashed said she would "definitively" submit to the league "several ideas concerning issue of interest to Arab women."

Appearing before reporters here wearing a green dress, she considered her appointment "normal" and due to her "competence" adding that she was 28.

"Women constitute half of society," she said, stressing that she expected to hire female colleagues to help her in her new job.

Women in fact hold a special place in the heart of the Libyan leader, whose own personal guard consists of many women.

Colonel Qadhafi has repeatedly expressed his desire to give Libyan women a greater role in society and in his famous "Green Book" said that by appointing women to key positions he wanted to show the world his discontent with Arab governments that are "incapable of defending their nation."

Ms. Rashed graduated from Al Fateh University in Tripoli and holds a degree in political science.

She held several official posts in Libya, at the foreign affairs ministry and at parliament, but it was the first time she was given an ambassadorial title.

## Kuwait says GCC fully backs its moves

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Gulf Arab states fully support Kuwait's moves to defend itself and the emirate is ready to stand up to any Iraqi threat, Defence Minister Ahmad Al Hamud Al Sabah said Sunday.

"Of course, our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), at its head Saudi Arabia, are with us heart and soul," Sheikh Ahmad said in newspapers.

"They understand all the measures which we have carried out, and are supporting us in all steps which we have undertaken related to the government or armed forces," the minister said.

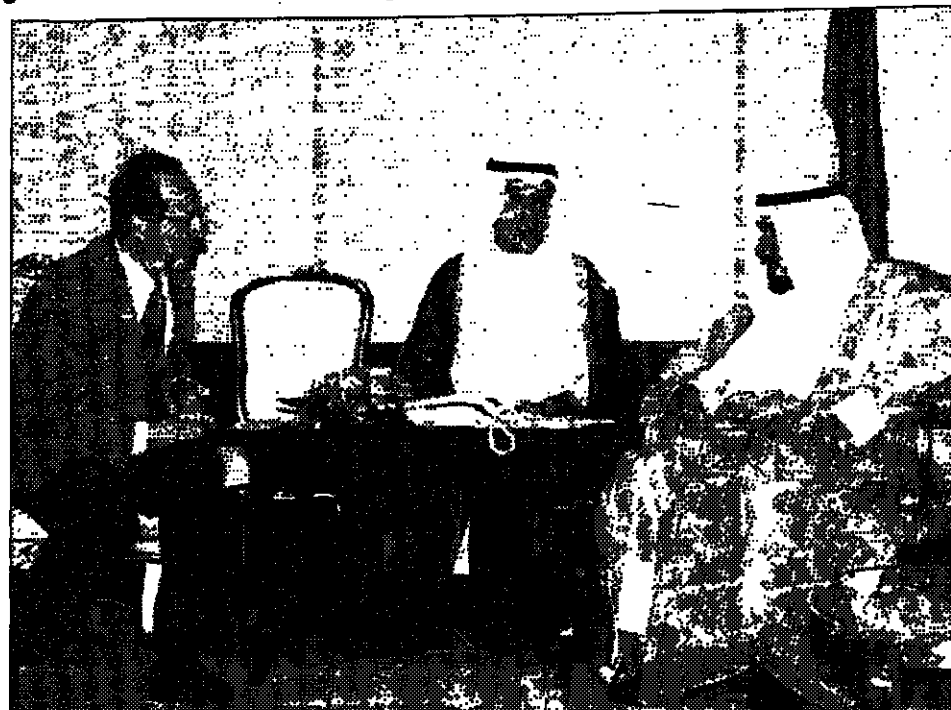
He said the government was in constant touch with the five other states of the GCC — Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

"Until this moment I have not been informed of any Iraqi military buildup on our border ... But we are ready for any circumstance and we are watching the situation," the minister said.

He said that U.S. and Kuwaiti forces would take part in more joint exercises at the end of the month that were already planned before the rise in tension in the region.

But the Pentagon said Saturday that while thousands of army troops had been given orders to prepare for deployment in Kuwait, they "may not actually be deployed."

It had earlier said 5,000



U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry (left) and Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, hold talks in Kuwait on Sunday. The unidentified man sitting in the middle is an interpreter (Reuters photo)

troops would be sent this weekend to Kuwait, which Iraq occupied from August 1990 to February 1991 until its ouster by a U.S.-led military coalition in the Gulf war.

Eight F-117A Stealth bombers arrived in Kuwait on Friday along with 18 F-16s fighters, as part of the U.S. military buildup in Kuwait. A 1,200-strong U.S. battalion is already conducting live-fire exercises in the Kuwaiti desert.

Helicopters from the neighbouring Gulf Arab states also arrived in the

emirate on Thursday to take part in joint exercises with Kuwaiti forces running until September 19.

Jordan also voiced support for the emirate on Sunday, Al Rai Al Am newspaper reported.

"It is the right of Kuwait, which was subjected to one of the most vile aggressions, to take the appropriate measures to counter any attack and defend its territory and people," Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti said.

"We in Jordan consider that any aggression against

a brother Arab country is an attack against us," said Mr. Kabarti.

Despite the show of Arab support, Arab League foreign ministers meeting in Cairo over the weekend have slammed any foreign interference in Iraq, albeit without naming the United States, and expressed support for Iraqi sovereignty.

Kuwait was the only Arab country to openly back U.S. cruise missile strikes on Iraq earlier this month in retaliation for an Iraqi incursion into a Kurdish "safe haven" in the north.

## Lebanese youth goes on trial for fire that shocked Germany

BONN (AFP) — A Young Lebanese accused of starting the fire which shocked Germany when it roared through a hostel for foreigners in Luebeck, killing 10 occupants, and injuring 38, goes on trial in the northern port city Monday.

Safwan Eid has strenuously denied starting the horrific fire, and his trial for aggravated arson and negligently causing bodily harm comes amid continued uncertainty surrounding the deadly blaze of early Jan. 18, which provoked public outrage.

Most of the hostel's occupants were black Africans seeking asylum, and the immediate reaction was that it was the work of German neo-Nazi extremists, comparable to such anti-foreigner arson attacks as those of Moelln in 1992 and Solingen in 1993 in which eight Turkish women and children died.

Four children were among the dead, and some of the victims leapt from upper-storey windows to escape the smoke and flames. Four German youths were arrested in the neighbouring region of Mecklenburg-West Pomerania after three of them were seen in a car in the early hours in a Luebeck service station. One was dressed as a neo-Nazi skin-

head. But police concluded they had a water-tight alibi and rapidly released them.

Eid, one of the 48 occupants of the hostel where he was living with several relatives, was arrested two days after the fire on the basis of the "remarkable" evidence that he allegedly made to one of the rescue-workers at the scene. He is also said to have pointed where the fire began on the first floor. Investigators believe the fire must have been started by someone inside the building.

But prosecutors have been unable to link Eid directly to the fire, and decided that they could not sustain an intention to kill. The manner in which the investigation was carried out has also been strongly criticised by the youth's advocates.

Early July the affair appeared to take a new turn when the four German youths were again interrogated while the accused, who was committed for trial in June, was freed on bail.

Safwan Eid will be tried by a juvenile court, because under German law one is a minor until the age of 21 and there has been doubt about whether he was 20 or 21 at the time. Over 60 witnesses are expected in the trial, which is scheduled to last until mid-October.

## Uganda denies restoring relations with Sudan

KAMPALA (Agencies) — An Ugandan minister denied his country agreed to resume diplomatic relations with Sudan severed last year but said the two sides had agreed on steps to overcome their dispute.

Amama Mbabazi, Uganda's minister of state for defence, was responding to a report last week by Sudan's official news agency SUNA about an agreement reached between the two sides in Khartoum.

"There is no provision for the restoration of diplomatic relations in the agreement," the Monitor newspaper on Sunday quoted Mr. Mbabazi as saying. He said the two sides had agreed to set up a team with representatives from Iran, Libya and Malawi, as well as from Uganda and the Sudan, to verify the situation on the border between the two countries.

Under the agreement, signed by the two foreign ministers, Uganda and Sudan agreed to work to halt activity by rebels in the border area. Each side has accused the other of supporting anti-government rebels.

The aim was to ensure that the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting a guerrilla war against the Khartoum government for the last 13 years, would not be able to take refuge in Ugandan border areas.

Similarly, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), fighting to overthrow the government of Uganda President Yoweri Museveni since 1987, would not be allowed to take refuge in southern Sudan.

The two countries agreed to accept any refugees and "hostile elements" to at least 100 kilometres from the Uganda-Sudan border, and to encourage voluntary repatriation of refugees.

Egypt sends aid

Egypt, long at odds with Sudan, sent 40 tonnes of tents, food, blankets and medical supplies on Sunday to assist Sudanese devastated by recent floods.

Heavy rains sent waters surging over the banks of the Nile River last week near Khartoum, destroying 200 homes and forcing thousands to flee. Earlier this month, floods killed 17 people in a village further north along the Nile.

The supplies were carried in an Egypt Air jetliner. Relations between Sudan and Egypt dramatically soured after Cairo accused Khartoum of plotting an attempt on the life of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last year. Egypt has also suspected Sudan of supporting militants fighting the Cairo government.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Islamic revolution powerful abroad — Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani returned on Sunday from a six-nation tour of Africa and said the Islamic revolution was respected around the world. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said he told reporters the visit demonstrated that despite what he termed U.S. conspiracies, Islam and the Islamic revolution of Iran were respected and cherished throughout the world. The African people were grateful to Iran for its attention to the problems and issues in their countries, he added. Mr. Rafsanjani visited Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

### Iran: Drafting schoolboy was mistake

LONDON (R) — A 17-year-old British schoolboy was drafted into the Iranian army while on a recent visit to the country because of a "misunderstanding" which will shortly be put right, an Iranian diplomat said on Sunday. Reza Afshar, who was born in Britain of Iranian parents, was called up for a possible two years of national service while on a trip to Iran to see relatives with his sister Sara and mother Farideh. He was travelling on an Iranian passport. But Mohammed Safaei, deputy head of mission at the Iranian embassy in London, said he had been discussing the case with Tehran and believed Afshar would shortly be heading home to Britain to continue his studies at High Wycombe west of London. "It's just a question of getting the paperwork right. It will be sorted out," Mr. Safaei said. He said no one in Iran had to do military service until they were 18 and even then students were exempt. "We have communicated with Tehran to clarify the situation and overcome the misunderstanding," he added. Before Mr. Safaei's statement, Britain's Foreign Office said it would raise the case with the Iranian authorities.

### Wounded Afghan soldiers treated in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Soldiers wounded fighting on the side of President Burhanuddin Rabbani in Afghanistan's bloody civil war are being treated in private hospitals in the Indian capital, the Hindustan Times reported on Sunday. The newspaper, which carried a picture of two soldiers in a Delhi hospital, did not say how many soldiers were being treated. It said they had been admitted to several nursing homes (private hospitals). Most of the soldiers had arrived in India after preliminary treatment in Kabul and had serious wounds or needed orthopaedic or plastic surgery, a doctor was quoted as saying. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters he did not know if the Indian government was extending any help to the soldiers. "I have no idea," he said. The soldiers, fighting Taleban forces which now control half of Afghanistan, had been sent to India after preliminary treatment in Kabul, where a big military hospital was damaged in a rocket attack, the newspaper said.

### France offers Greek-Turkish mediation

ATHENS (AP) — France is ready to help Greece and Turkey solve their differences, Premier Alain Juppe said Saturday. He urged the two NATO allies to reach agreement through the principles of international law. "Differences must be solved through international organs and the International Court of Justice. France is prepared to help solve the differences between Greece and Turkey and the two communities on Cyprus," Mr. Juppe said after a meeting with his Greek counterpart, Costas Simitis. Mr. Juppe was on the first day of a two-day official visit timed to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the French school of archaeology in Greece. The two premiers also discussed bilateral relations and the inter-governmental conference taking place on the future of the European Union — of which both countries are members.

### 'Suspect in Iraq programme implicates others'

BONN (AFP) — A German engineer sought here for "high treason" for allegedly assisting Iraqi efforts to build nuclear weapons, has accused several other German experts of being involved in the programme, according to the latest issue of the magazine Der Spiegel. Karl-Heinz Schaab, 62, told the magazine which goes on sale Monday, that at least four experts working for his former employer Man-Technologie AG had taken part in a project to build a uranium enrichment facility in Iraq. Without saying how the magazine contacted Mr. Schaab, or where he was, the magazine recalled that Mr. Schaab had been unmasked by a U.N. inspector. The magazine quoted Mr. Schaab as saying he had lived for several months in Palma De Majorca in Spain before leaving there in July. Der Spiegel said Mr. Schaab had dismissed as "non-sense" reports that he has taken refuge in Libya or in Iran. He told the magazine he had no intention of surrendering to the German authorities and of being made a scapegoat for others. But he said he expected to be arrested at any moment. Another German weekly, Focus, said German police had information leading them to believe that Mr. Schaab was in Brazil. Focus said in an issue appearing Monday, that Mr. Schaab's lawyer had visited his client in Brazil.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

- 15:05 .....Adventure On The Rainbow Pond
- 15:30 .....Oscar's Orchestra
- 15:45 .....Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
- 16:15 .....Can Polar Bear Tread Water?
- 17:00 .....News Flash
- 17:02 .....Sciences Cartoon
- 17:15 .....La Vie Devant Moi
- 17:30 .....Game Show — Pyramide
- 18:00 .....Magazine — La Marche Du Siecle/Part Two
- 19:00 .....Le Journal
- 19:15 .....Magazine — Cinqu Sur Cinqu
- 19:30 .....News Headlines
- 19:35 .....The Hypnotic World of Paul Mc Kenmi
- 20:00 .....The Ozone Alarm
- 20:10 .....The Lazarus Man
- 22:00 .....News in English
- 22:25 .....The Bold and the Beautiful
- 23:10 .....Bodies of Evidence

### PRAYER TIMES

- 04:57 .....Fajr
- 06:15 .....Sunrise/Duha
- 12:31 .....Dhuhr
- 16:02 .....Asr
- 18:47 .....Maghreb
- 20:05 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Sweifich, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771311

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 656991

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614191

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to drop significantly with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

and seas calm.  
Min./Max. temp. 19/28  
Aqaba 23/37  
Deserts 17/32  
Jordan Valley 21/35  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah ..821425  
Dr. Wisam Hazyayin ..748563  
Dr. Munther Al Qaraini 779959  
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim ..620115  
Ferdous pharmacy ..778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..773111  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..64945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Nairoukh pharmacy  
Najib pharmacy ..847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ahmad Qanu ..281484  
Al Quds pharmacy ..(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Ziyad Jghaitim ..992991  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..985417  
EMERGENCIES

Fryd Control Centre ..637111  
Civil Defence Department ..661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..199  
Fire Brigade ..192 621111, 637777  
Blood Bank ..617101  
Highway Police ..843402  
Traffic Police ..896390  
Public Security Dept. ..630321  
Hotel Complaints ..605800  
Price Complaints ..661176  
Water & Sewage Complaints ..897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..121  
Overseas Calls ..010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..623101  
Abdali Tel. Repairs ..661101  
Jordan Television ..773111  
Radio Jordan ..774111  
Water Authority ..680100  
J. Electricity Authority ..815615  
Electric Power Co. ..636381  
RJ Flight Information ..08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53300

### HOSPITAL

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity ..644281/6

Akileh Maternity ..642441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..642362  
Malhas J. Amman ..636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..607071  
Shmeisani Hospital ..669131  
University Hospital ..845845  
Al-Musheir Hospital ..667227/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..775111/26  
Army, Marka ..891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..09983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..09900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..09986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..09990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..021275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..02127275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..021247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..031314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:15 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
09:00 .....Damascus (RJ)  
09:30 .....Jeddah (RJ)  
10:10 .....Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:20 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:30 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
15:00 .....London (RJ)  
17:45 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
22:15 .....Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
23:25 .....Casablanca (RJ)  
02:59 .....Cairo (RJ)  
03:55 .....Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)  
04:10 .....Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

### Other Flights

11:45 .....Khartoum (SD)  
13:40 .....Sharjah, Bahrain (GF)  
14:30 .....Kiev (GU)  
15:00 .....Vienna (OS)

### 18:30 .....Athens, Istanbul (QT)

20:35 .....Cairo (MS)

20:55 .....Paris, Damascus (AF)

21:10 .....Beirut (ME)

22:00 .....Tel Aviv (LY)

23:30 .....Athens, Beirut (OA)

01:20 .....Amsterdam (KL)

05:40 .....London (BA)

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 .....Aqaba (RW)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:35 .....Beirut (RJ)

11:00 .....Casablanca (RJ)

12:30 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

13:25 .....London (RJ)

13:25 .....Frankfurt (RJ)

21:45 .....Damascus (RJ)

21:45 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

22:15 .....Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

22:30 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

23:15 .....Cairo (RJ)

01:00 .....Sanaa (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:00 .....Istanbul (TK)

07:45 .....Beirut, London (BA)

08:45 .....Beirut (ME)

13:00 .....Khartoum (SD)

14:30 Bahrain Abu Dhabi (GF)

15:30 .....Kiev (GU)

15:50 .....Vienna (OS)

19:30 .....Doha (QT)

21:25 .....Cairo (MS)

23:00 .....Tel Aviv (LY)

23:55 .....Damascus, Paris (AF)

02:30 .....Amsterdam (KL)

04:00 .....Beirut, Athens (OA)

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights